

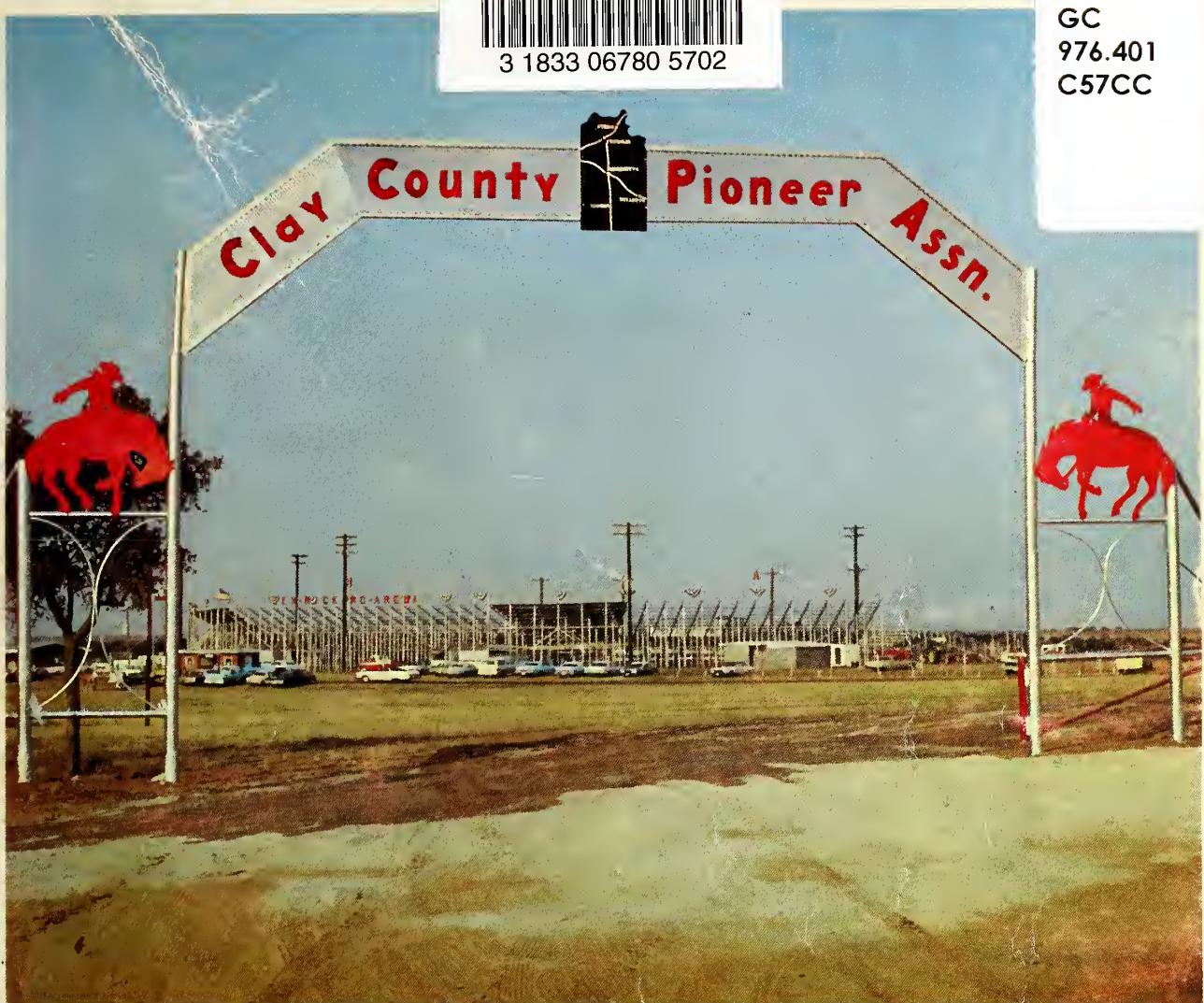
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50th Anniversary
Clay County
Pioneer Reunion
and
Rodeo
September 17, 18, 19, 1981

Compliments of

The Scheer Family

Annie

Thelma

Eddie



EMPTY SADDLES

Mr. and Mrs. C. S. Scheer

Elizabeth Germany

Henry Scheer

Carl Scheer

Herman Scheer

Hello Everyone!

It is a pleasure for me to welcome all of you to this 50th annual Clay County Pioneer Reunion and Rodeo.

It takes a lot of hard work and money to make this celebration possible, so first I want to thank the members of the Nine-Man Board who work all year. Also the committee men and ladies and everyone else who contributes time, labor, and money to make this an enjoyable three days.

It is a privilege for me to serve as your 1981 president. Thank you for the honor.

Sincerely,

Sam Adams

Sam Adams

President,
Clay County

Pioneer Association

Welcome
Pioneers and Guests



J.T. and Helen Lyles

Co-Chairman
of the
Reception Committee

About The Cover

The glossy cover of this golden anniversary souvenir book was made possible by J.T. and Helen Lyles of Henrietta. The picture shows the new gate at the south entrance with Tex Rickard Memorial Arena in the background. The two archway entrances to the pioneers' grounds were contributed by Mr. and Mrs. Lyles in memory of his mother, Mrs. Pearlena Sanzenbacher Lyles, a dedicated booster of the association who reigned as Pioneer Queen in 1971. Mr. and Mrs. Lyles also gave the Pioneers' Association two city lots located just south of the main entrance.

The layout and typesetting on the front cover is the work of H.C. Zachry, talented artist of Abilene, Texas and a member of a pioneer Clay County family. Mr. Zachry's paintings are known throughout the world. His subject matter deals mainly with West Texas and the Southwest. He designed the Clay County Centennial Commemorative Coin, and several of his paintings have appeared on past covers of the souvenir books.

The picture on the back cover is of the Clay County Courthouse which was completed in 1884 at a cost of \$30,000. When built, the courthouse had a tall cupelo or spire with a clock. It was reputed to be so tall it could be seen from Red River, directing travelers to Henrietta. It was removed in the early part of this century and the present dome erected. Legend has it that the old structure was removed because of fear its weight could ruin the building's foundation. The bricks in the building were fired locally from clay on the northwest side of town. At one time there was an iron fence around the square with a chain outside for hitching horses.

IN MEMORY OF

Marvin and Pearl
Lyles



P



Pearlena
Lyles

Marvin
Lyles

J.T.

Ida Mae

Lillian

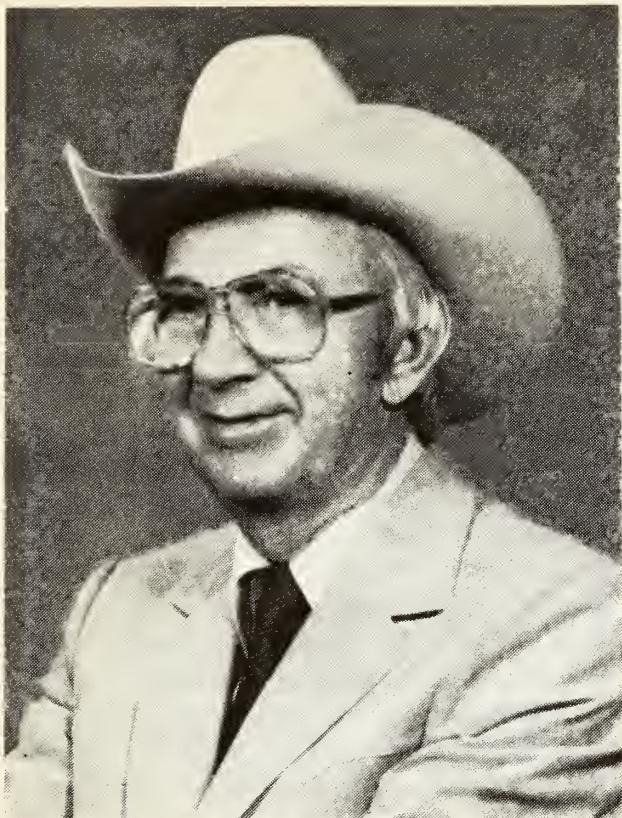
NAT FLEMING

When asked for a statement to go along with his picture, Nat Fleming, our Official Rodeo Announcer, had this to say:

How much more of an honor could be bestowed on an 'ole boy than to ask him to take part in the Clay County Pioneer Reunion Rodeo as the Announcer for the 35th consecutive year and more especially since this is the 50th consecutive year for our celebration.

In case you haven't noticed...since I don't announce any shows other than this one...I will be moving to one side and leaving the event description to Benny Johnson of Cleburn, Texas. I hope you will have the opportunity to personally make Benny Welcome back this year.

Again...thanks, it's an honor to Call Clay County...Home.



In Memory of

Robert Fred Wynn (1894-1951)

*Robert Fred Wynn, Jr. (1929-1954)
(9 Man Board — 1954)*

Mrs. Fred Wynn

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Gray

Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy Klein

Jana Beth, Jennifer Kay, and Mary Sue

PROGRAM

THURSDAY — September 17, 1981

4:00 P.M. KICKOFF COWBOY PARADE led by PETROLIA HI SCHOOL BAND, Sheryl Cyrus, Band Director; the 9-Man BOARD, BILLY DAN WYNN, Chairman, Bobby Scheer Co-Chairman, PAUL BEVERING, Arena Director, BOB ZACHRY, JOE BENTON BROWN, JESS SPIVEY, LINDY CHOATE, JOE BEN WHITAKER, CHAS. GRAY: Rodeo Queen Contestants led by Carol Jo Long, 1980 Rodeo Queen; Visiting Riding Clubs. BOB BUNTING, Parade Announcer.

5:30 P.M. BARBECUE DINNER honoring Rodeo Queen Contestants, Past Queens, and Judges. Mrs. Leon Wines and Mrs. Louise Mayo, assisting. HOSTED by Welcome Committee HELEN and J.T. LYLES and President SAM ADAMS and wife Vera. State Representative Chas. Finnell, Master of Ceremonies. ALSO dinner near Pioneer Building for Riding Clubs, Bands and visitors will be served.

7:30 P.M. Presentation of CLAY COUNTY PIONEER QUEEN and DUCHESSES in TEX RICKARD ARENA By President SAM ADAMS...followed by GRAND ENTRY and RODEO in Tex Rickard Arena...featuring visiting Riding Clubs; awarding of trophies to first, second and third place winners by CHAIRMAN BILLY DAN WYNN. RODEO STOCK PRODUCER: Terry and Delia Walls, Stephenville. DANCE following Rodeo: JOHNNY DUNCAN...Nashville, Tennessee. CALF SCRAMBLE...EACH NIGHT OF RODEO. STEER SADDLING...EACH NIGHT OF RODEO.

FRIDAY — September 18, 1981

9:00 A.M. Registration of PIONEERS IN COURTHOUSE...all day, Mrs. Irene Russell and assistants.

10:00 A.M. FLOAT PARADE, led by HENRIETTA HI SCHOOL BAND, BARRY HURT, Band Director, and SAM ADAMS, President, driven by Vice-President Mrs. Mildred Wines with Mrs. Madge Watson, Secretary; Also honors other Pioneer Officials, Ex-Pioneer presidents; County, City and District Officials, Clay County Mayors, School Superintendents and other visiting dignitaries. PARADE ANNOUNCERS: BOB BUNTING and FRANK J. DOUTHITT. WILSON SCALING, Parade Marshal, Darrell Massie, Assisting. PARADE ARRANGEMENTS: Harold Cotton, Wayne Brockman, Bill Wilcoxen, Jimmy Ben Gill.

11:30 A.M. A.M. Barbecue lunch honoring ALL REGISTERED CLAY COUNTY PIONEERS at VFW Building. Pioneers take buses at Courthouse to Pioneer Grounds and return. Barbecue Lunch for the Public Prine's catering service.

12:00 Noon CUTTING HORSE SHOW: Joe Parker, Jr., Sherrell Wade, Glen Moss, Managers

1:00 P.M. SPECIAL ENTERTAINMENT: Courthouse lawn with Mrs. Nat Fleming, Chairman. "CHUCK JENNINGS & THE TRAVELERS" DALLAS

7:30 P.M. RODEO QUEEN crowned by Chas. Finnell, State Representative, and gifts presented to RODEO QUEEN, RUNNER-UP, MISS HORSEMANSHIP, MISS APPEARANCE, MISS PERSONALITY and MISS CONGENIALITY, in Rodeo Arena. RODEO in Tex Rickard Arena. DANCE: CHARLIE McCLAIN — Nashville, Tennessee.

— Program Continued —

SATURDAY — September 19, 1981

9:00 A.M. Registration of PIONEERS in Courthouse...till noon
10:00 A.M. FLOAT PARADE, led by SAFB DRUM & BUGLE CORPS DRILL TEAM. Also VINTAGE CARS and AREA HIGH SCHOOL BANDS in parade.
11:30 A.M. Barbecue lunch honoring Pioneers...VFW BUILDING
12:30 P.M. SCHOOL BANDS IN CONCERT on Courthouse lawn.
12:30 P.M. "PLAY DAY" at Arena, ROBERT BROWN, Manager, Trophies for boys and girls in Pre-Junior, Junior and Senior...and ribbon awards to fifth place in six events.
1:00 P.M. AWARDING OF PRIZES...by Mrs. Felix Watson, Pioneer Secretary, for Oldest Native Daughter, Son, etc.
1:30 P.M. ELECTION OF PIONEER OFFICERS for 1982...conducted by Pioneer President SAM ADAMS, assisted by J.T. LYLES
1:30 P.M. SPECIAL MUSIC: SHADY GROVE RAMBLERS...IRVING
7:30 P.M. PARADE of Prize WINNING FLOATS in Tex Rickard Arena GRAND ENTRY and RODEO DANCE: "LIGHT CRUST DOUGHBOYS"...Fort Worth MUSIC: EACH NIGHT IN ARENA: ALLAN BING, The MUSIC KING, of St. Joseph, Mo. BOOTS given nightly by Olsen-Stelzer Boot and Saddlery Company, Henrietta THE CLAY COUNTY ART ASSOCIATION will have its 23rd ANNUAL ART SHOW SATURDAY ONLY On the Courthouse Lawn, Henrietta 10:00 A.M.-4:00 P.M.
3:00 P.M. Two Paintings to be given away to lucky Registrants.

"It's been a Great 50 Years"



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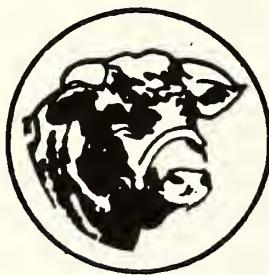
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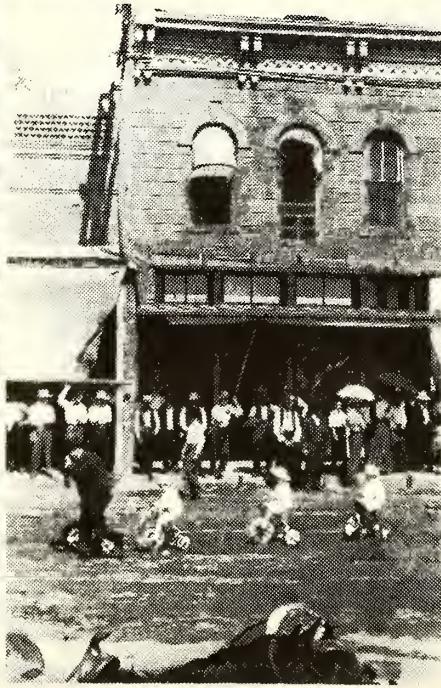


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Rhea Barker
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President

Leon Gaines
Geologist



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Welcome Pioneers
and Guests

**Clay County
Commissioners
Court**

Lewis Brown, County Judge

C.F. (Claude) Zachry, Precinct No. 1

Bob Brown, Precinct No. 2

C.F. Copeland, Precinct No. 3

Raymond Gill, Precinct No. 4

In Loving Memory of



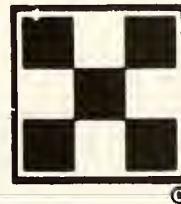
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Frances

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Tim, Stephanie and Monica

Jana and Lawerance

Boyd and Mattie
Foy and Frances



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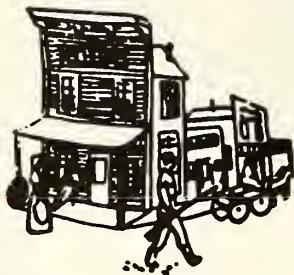
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of

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Jim Crump
Andy & Aaron Crump

Karen Davidson

Ina & Vernon Crump
Judy & Bob Davidson

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Parents and Grandparents

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In Memory

of

Henry Sanzenbacher

1881--1970

Carle Sanzenbacher

1920--1978

Ann Sanzenbacher

1921--1966



Mrs. Henry Sanzenbacher



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Buster

Willie Fae

Elsie

Claude

Carl

Everett

Katherine

In Loving Memory



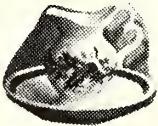
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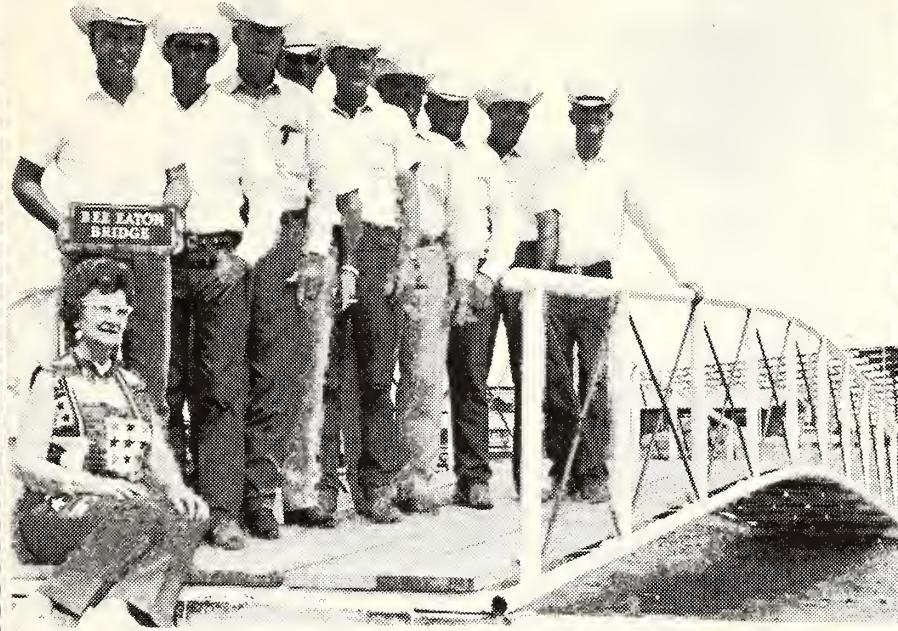
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Bee Eaton Bridge

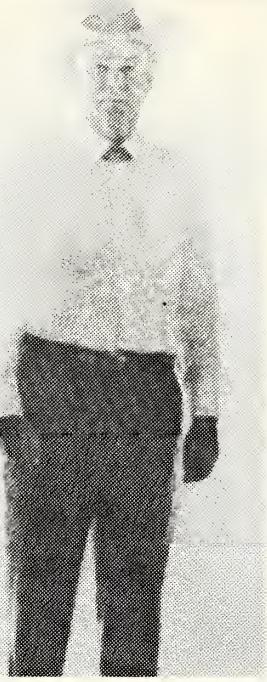
Seated: Bee Eaton

Standing: Darrell Massie, Board Chairman; Cratus Douthitt, Ed Bevering, Lewis Brown, Joe Ben Whitaker, Harry Scaling, Jerome Spivey, Wayne Roe and Carl Mayfield

This page is dedicated to
Bee Eaton
 for her 29 years of service
 to the
 Nine-Man Board of the
 Clay County Pioneer Association.

In Memory
of
Chelsey Russell

Margie & Jess Chisholm
Phyllis & Rick Jones
Charity & Kasey Jones
Liz & Reg Kesler
Suzanne & Donnie Patton
Shane & D.J. Patton



Welcome Pioneers to
our 50th Reunion
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& Amy**

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Mrs. J.W. (Kate) Douthitt

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Wil Douthitt

d



Amy Douthitt

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1980-81 Clay County Rodeo Queen



Carol Long

Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Long

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David and Leslie

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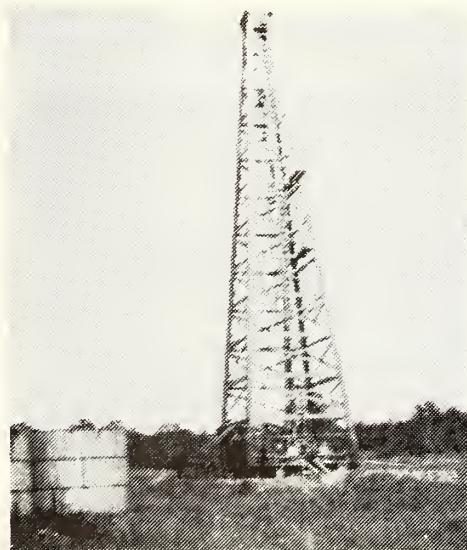
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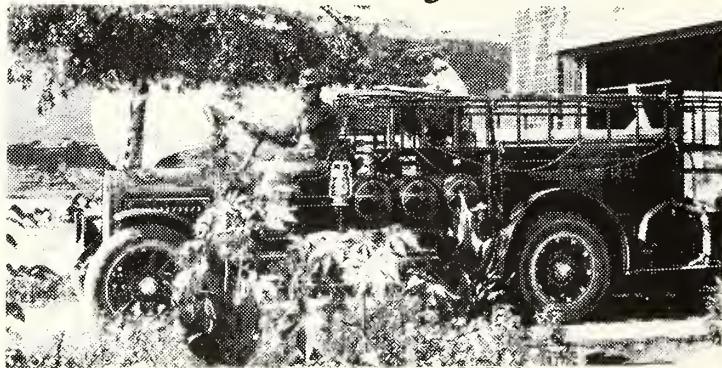
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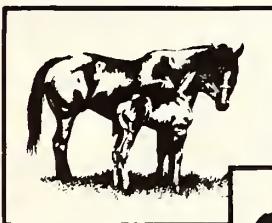


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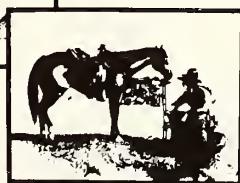
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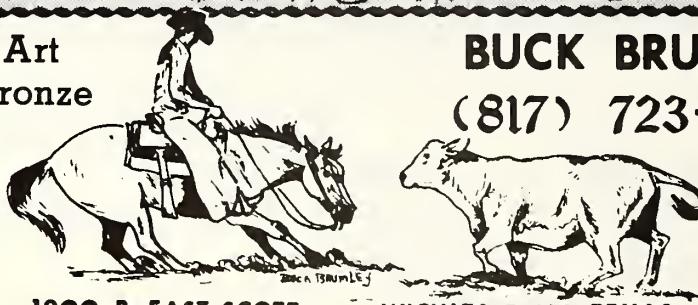
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of*

Henry Scheer



Mrs. Henry (Katie) Scheer

Henry, Jr.

Kathryn Jane

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Adair, Jahn
Adams, Ray
Allen, Pasca
Adams, Arnold "Chack"

B

Bunger, Mrs. Maude
Bargman, Ernest
Brawn, Mrs. Betty
Boger, Warren
Brill, Emma Kasanke
Brack, Effie Lau
Bell, Renia
Bridgewater, J.D.
Bevering, Beatrice
Bokka, Henry
Boker, Rose Derzapf

C

Caaper, Mrs. Mamie Dessie
Carter, Leonard
Caleman, Charles C.
Cox, R.E. "Bob"
Childs, Mrs. Stella
Chadwick, Mrs. Lydia
Christian, Leslie M.
Crawe, Mrs. Ivar Miller
Cantrell, Jim
Coffelt, Carl
Chapman, Mrs. Seva
Chaate, Mrs. Wanda
Chenault, Mrs. Faye
Causey, Mrs. Gertrude Ruth
Callaway, Mrs. Letha Pennington
Cann, Mrs. Grace Snearly
Cleveland, W.B.
Caldwell, Mrs. Kallie May
Culley, Bertie Mae
Caaper, Mamie Deffie
Criswell, Paul
Cavington, M.C.
Caraland, Katherine
Crawe, Ivar E. Miller
Cawley, Birdie Mae
Carr, Haustan R.
Caker, Walter C.
Casstevens, Viala Skeltan

D

Dubberly, Mrs. Minnie
Deatheridge, J.C.
Denson, Lan
Dowdy, Albert A.

E

Evans, Billy Joe
England, W.C.
Estes, Fred
Evans, Walter James

F

Fleming, W.C. "Bill"
Fry, George Elmer
Frizzell, Mrs. Jessie
Fecher, Albert
Fenaglia, Mrs. Lais
Fry, W.W.
Ferguson, Bob
Fleming, Mrs. Clara
Fax, Fletcher "Duke"
Flinn, Harace W.

G

Gilbaw, A.M.
Goadlet, Mrs. Alma (Pat Faulkner)
Glasgow, Mrs. Nala Wells
Gardner, Mrs. Effie
Garner, Carl
Gresham, Jimmie
Garrison, Alene W.
Gehring, Gus
Gee, Leray, Sr.
Grady, Ira Inez
Grady, Ruby
Gustafson, Minnie

H

Hembree, Boy
Hare, George
Harris, Mrs. Lala Lee
Haddax, Bufard
Hughes, Max
Harris, G.D. "Buster"
Hill, Rev. C.E.
Hutsan, Martin R.
Haigood, R.D.
Hill, Hattie Newell
Hallaway, Dan
Harbour, Gladys
Helm, Richard Neal
Henry, Jimmy William
Hankins, Vera Ellen
Harris, Mrs. Bill (Dady)

I

Isaacs, Mrs. Beatrice Hartan
Ingram, Mary Ja Lebus

J

Jahnstan, Ernest W.
Janes, Dayle L.
K
Kaetter, Mrs. Jasephine
Knight, Ethel Landers
Kerr, Emma Hawell
Krajca, Miss Anna
Kafer, Arthur
Killen, Mrs. Pansy
King, Mrs. Larena
Killian, Gaines "Biggan"
Keller, Mrs. Peter
Kimbrough, Elbert Newton
Knight, Dan
Kunkel, Jae Ernest

L

Lyans, Mrs. Florence Crashwaite
Lawrence, Dick
Lemans, Bill
Liggett, Milton
Laman, Asa A.
Lyan, Mrs. Ruby Chumley
Lutz, Nancy
Lyde, Agnus
Lowell, Thelma Lucy

M

Martan, Archie C.
Meurer, Mrs. Helen
Meeks, Bob
Maddox, Mrs. Opal
Mahaffey, Bella Laura
Matheson, Bass
McAnally, Mrs. Effie
Mabley, Ette
Martin, W.L. "Dub"
Murphy, Mrs. L.C.
McGuire, Russell
Maberry, Jahn H.
Maberry, Jake
Martin, Mrs. Ola (Ray)
Manning, Paul
Myers, Walter

N

Neville, Jim
Nichals, Pearl

O

Oldham, Bertie
Overstreet, Mrs. Hattie
P
Pape, Mrs. Mable
Pairot, Sub
Pennington, Lawson
Parrish, William
Pawell, Vayne D. "Ba"
Pace, Edwin
Patterson, Orville

R

Rutledge, Mrs. Beulah
Richardsan, C.L.
Rawe, Pauline
Raach, Era
Reese, Mrs. Sam
Reaves, Paul
Reynalds, R.L. "Bob"
Reynalds, Lea
Rayer, C.L. "Pats"
Ratliff, Mrs. Deltas
Ramsey, Mrs. Laura Ellen
Rabertsan, L.J. "Buster"

S

Smith, Erman E.
Simmons, George Dewey
Sanders, Orville
Smith, Lillie Statan
Specht, Mrs. Fannie
Schaffner, Ben
Schmittau, Mrs. Mae Liggett
Smith, Mrs. Lala
Sleckler, George
Schaffner, Mrs. Pauline
Sircy, Otice
Selvidge, Lewis
Steph, Clyde
Sanders, Pat
Steidman, Herman
Starnes, Jahnny
Starnes, Mattie Ruth
Sextan, L.W.
Scarber, Tam
Stane, Vernan
Spikes, Arlan
Shelton, Willie
Shelton, Al
Smith, Lillie Pearl

T

Taylor, Mrs. R.E. (Grace)
Teakell, Mrs. Stella
Teague, Mrs. Eula Shaw
Thampsan, R.S. (Jack)
Thamas, Mrs. June Maurice
Taylor, Jessie William
Teeters, Mrs. Susie Alta
Thampsan, Willie Bell

U

Upham, Mrs. Rebecca Isam

V

Vaughter, Betty Joe

W

Willis, Ben
Wheeler, Richard
Warsham, Dac
Williams, H.B.
Weist, Elmer
Weist, Eugene
Wells, R.C.
Wright, Homer
Williams, Mrs. Mackie L.
Willis, J.B.
Weber, Tillie
Warner, T.A.
Wiest, Alvin
Williams, Mrs. Mattie L.
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Wilsan, Jesse Thamas
White, Mrs. Nannie
Walsh, Scata Elizabeth
Watsan, Mrs. Grace
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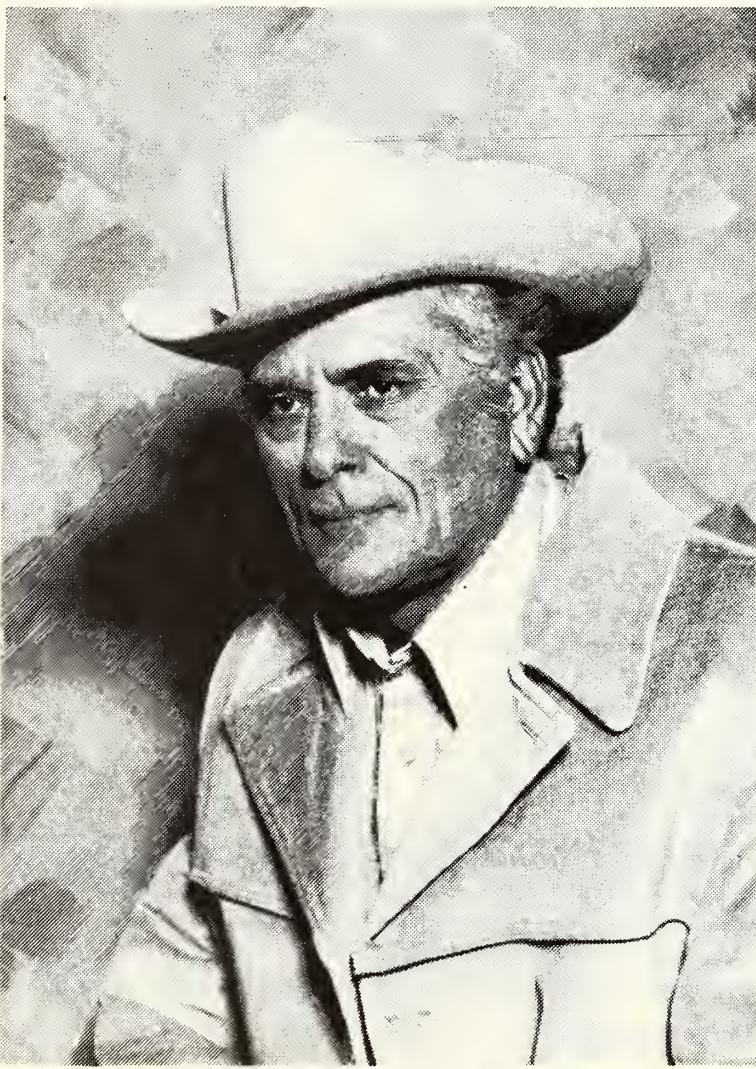
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(1907-1969)



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(1889-1958)



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and



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Did You Know? Clay County was created, marked off and surveyed in 1857, but abandoned in '61 because of Indians. It was reorganized in '72.

In 1862, there were eight slaves in Clay Co.

A leading historian wrote that during the Civil War, "Clay County probably was the most perilous land in America." By mid 1863, not a single white settler was left in Clay County. Buildings and homes were deserted and later completely burned by rampaging Indians.

Fort Buffalo Springs, established after the Civil War to halt Indian attacks existed only seven months and cost taxpayers \$100,000. It was ordered abandoned by a U.S. Army Inspection Board.

Cattle produce 80 by-products, including 134 medicines produced from the beef carcass.

The first permanent white settler in Clay Co., Henry A. Whaley, is buried in the Benvenue Cemetery near Byers.

The entire town of Bellevue was leveled (except for the railroad water tower and stone bank vault) in April of 1906 by a tornado, killing 17.

It takes the pancreas glands from 1,500 cattle to produce one ounce of insulin (used for people with diabetes).

W.S. Ikard came to Clay Co. in 1873 and introduced the Hereford to Texas

Entire downtown Bluegrove burned in the late 1930's.

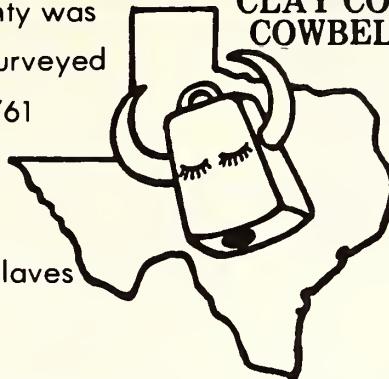
In 1884, at the peak of the trail driving period, cattlemen prospered — they got \$30 per steer!

Vashti's first barber was Brownlow Lindsey. In 1903, when Vashti got telephones, wires were stapled to the top of fence posts.

Only 50 per cent of a beef animal can be used as cuts for the public.

W.B. Worsham contributed to the cattle industry here, brought the Dick Worsham spur of the FW&D railroad and established a bank in Henrietta.

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Marvin and Sandra

Buddy and Essie Stembridge

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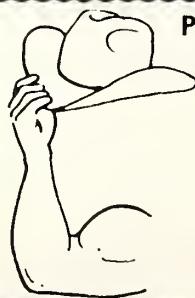
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In Memory
of
Kenneth Edward Webb



"Daddy"

Many a poem has been written about dads
But there was never one better than the one we had.

Tall, lean, and lanky — standing six foot four,
He had to bend over to go through most doors.

To us he was Daddy — To Mother he was Hon
A giant among men — Slim was to everyone.

A Daddy to six — a husband to one,
A friend to all - an enemy to none.

Twelve grands — who never left him alone
Who ran for his chair the minute he came home.

A game they did play — all piled in his chair,
Legs he did pull and arms that were there.

Five sons-in-law — a daughter-in-law, too,
He knew you loved him as he loved you.

If there was anger, it never did show.
He loved us always and cared for us so.

When we were troubled — we knew where to go.
He talked and we talked, and we knew it was so.

He taught us right from wrong
And gave us a good Christian home.

Now Daddy is gone — his memories remain
With all that he gave us — our hearts will retain.

We love him so very much — it is hard to let go.
When God called him home — we knew it was so.

With each drop of rain — each star in the sky,
We love you, Daddy, there is no wonder why.

Things have never been as bad as they now seem.
Daddy, you are gone — it is not a dream.

This poem has no ending — this poem has no good-bye.
Daddy, we just can't — we hope you understand why.

Clinta, Jean, Joan, Pat, Kay, Shirley & Charles

In Loving Memory



Theodore and Eva Schulzman Bullinger

Elizabeth Hoff
Veronica (Fronie) Wolf
Florence Thoele
Mike Bullinger

Adam Bullinger
Magdalena Weber
Joe Bullinger
Theodore Bullinger



In Loving Memory
ANTON WOLF
and
VERONICA WOLF

Ted Wolf
Eva Berend
Adam Wolf
Tony Wolf

Veronica (Fronie) Vieth
Mike Wolf
Henry Wolf
Sylvester Wolf

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In Memory of
Beckham Guthrie

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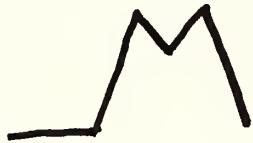
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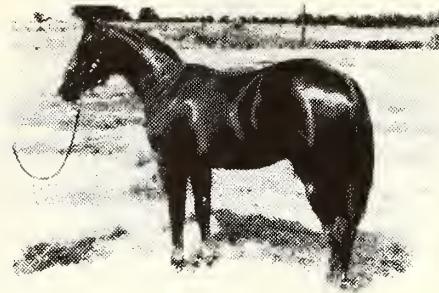
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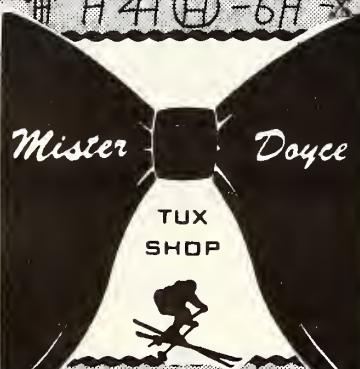
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1963-Mrs. Ida Crowley, Henrietta-Age 91
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 F.D. Gregory, South Clay County-Age 84

1965-Mrs. W.H. Kerbow, Henrietta-Age 89
 S.R. Adair, Henrietta-Age 89

1966-Edgar P. Haney, Wichita-Age 84
 Mrs. Minie Graham, Henrietta-Age 86

1967-R.L. Scaling, Sr., Clay County-Age 93
 Mrs. Lou Rawlings, Clay County-Age 93

1968-Babe Castle, Shannon-Age 85
 Mrs. Deana Evans, Henrietta-Age 83

1969-W.H. Garner, Prospect-Age 81
 Mrs. P.H. Boddy, Henrietta-Age 92

1970-L.Y. Herrin, Byers-Age 83
 Mrs. Minnie Graham, Petrolia-Age 92

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 Mrs. Les (Mary) Christian, Byers-Age 77

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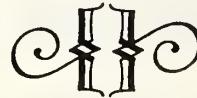
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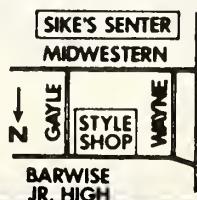
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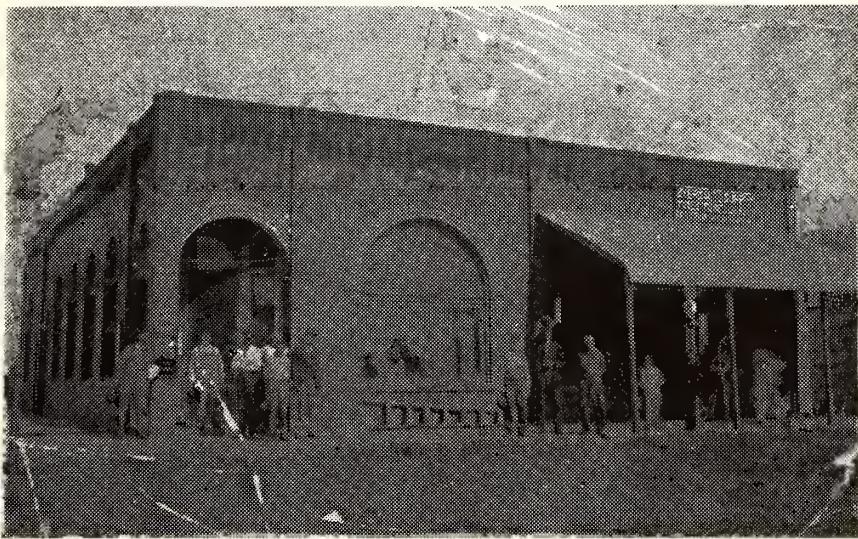
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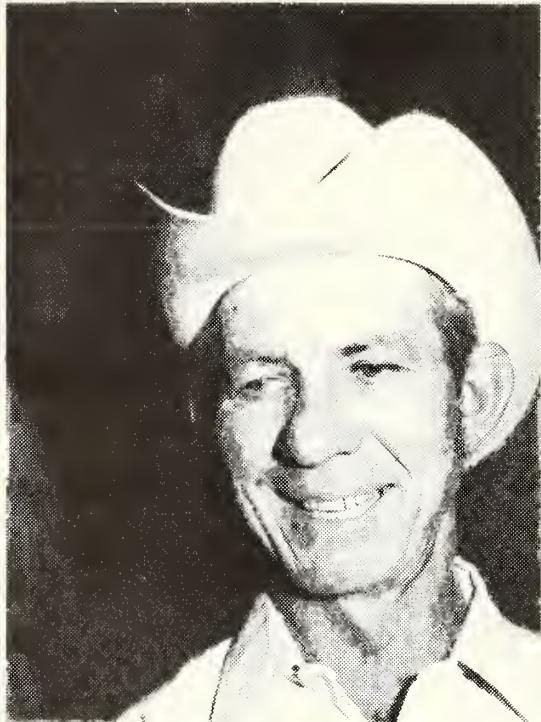


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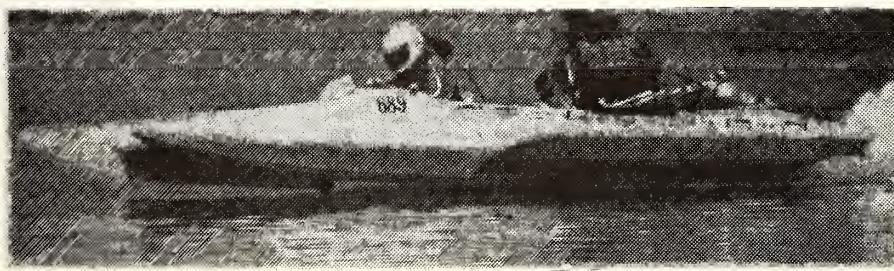
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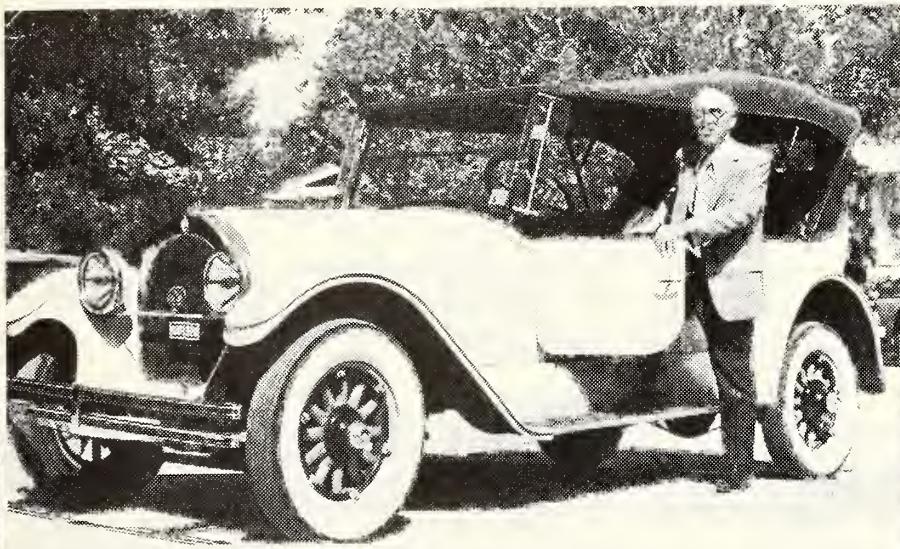
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Homer Ellis
Bob Hatfield
Steve Moore



In Memory of



(Parade — Sept. 1970)

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1902-1979*

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Arena Director
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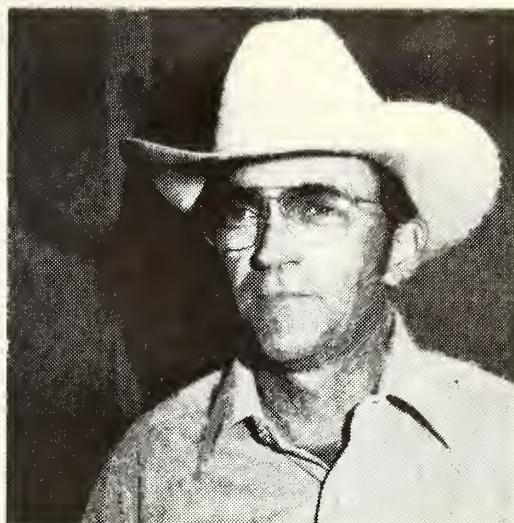


Mrs. Charles ("Sug") McKee
Assistant Secretary
Henrietta

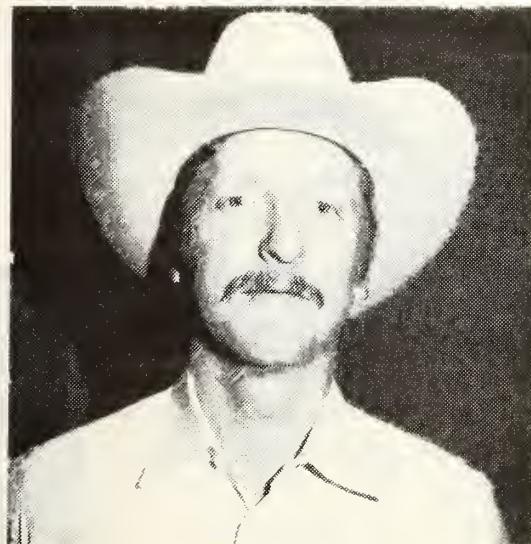
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Stanfield



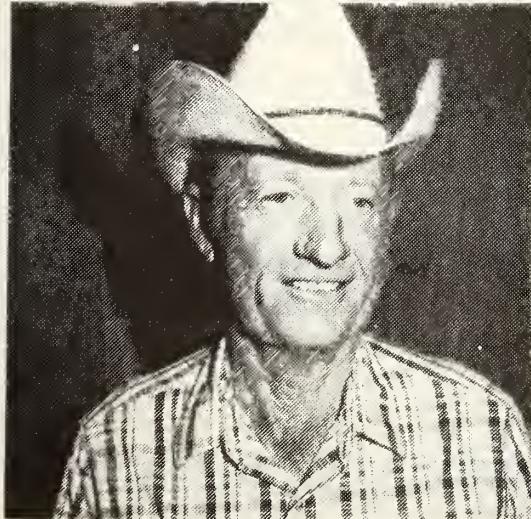
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Byers



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Jolly



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Clay County Pioneer Association PAST PRESIDENTS

1933—George S. Myers *	1957—Henry Sanzenbacher *
1934—J.W. Douthitt *	1958—Jim Alcorn *
1935—George Cunningham *	1959—Carl Garner *
1936—A.H. Bevering *	1960—George Z. Wright *
1937—Miss Lulu Johnson *	1961—Ed Bevering *
1938—Sam L. Russell *	1962—Roscoe Scott *
1939—Mrs. C.S. Scheer *	1963—Dale Burrus *
1940—Hence Harding *	1964—Andrew Smith *
1941—I.E. Childs *	1965—W.E. Lanham *
1942—W.H. Cullers *	1966—T.F. Warren *
1943—Virgil C. Johnson *	1967—B.E. "Pete" Gill *
1944—Mrs. Nellie Bates Green *	1968—Ham Douglass
1945—Tom Watson *	1969—Ralph Shipp *
1946—Cyrus Coleman *	1970—Roger Pope *
1947—Mrs. E.L. Ikard *	1971—Kirk Edwards
1948—Authur V. Slagle *	1972—H.C. (Buster) Zachry
1949—Henry C. Zachry *	1973—E.A. Hoff
1950—Miss Arcola Goad *	1974—Herman Scheer *
1951—J.B. Dunn *	1975—L.Y. Herrin *
1952—L.B. Hapgood *	1976—Harry Scaling
1953—Lawrence Nuckolls	1977—Lindon Garrison
1954—P.H. Boddy *	1978—J.H. "Goat" Mayo
1955—Dr. A.B. Edwards *	1979—J.T. Lyles
1956—Frank Hurn *	1980—Edd W. Williams
* Deceased	
1981—Sam Adams	

IN MEMORY OF

**CLAUDE AND LOUELLA WYNN
and CLAUDETTE**

Billy Dan
Mary Gayle

Bennie Dell
Judy

History

Clay County Pioneer Association

The first gathering of old-time residents of Clay County was called for August 19, 1932, at 3 p.m. by a group of local club women. At this meeting the Clay County Pioneer Association was organized. Committees were appointed to formulate its Constitution and By-Laws, and to arrange for its first reunion October 28, 1932.

The purpose of the Clay County Pioneer Association, as set forth in the preamble of the Constitution and By-laws adopted by the group, is to honor the memory and accomplishments of the hardy emigrants who sought to make a haven and home for their families, and set themselves to the arduous task of reclaiming a wilderness and replacing it with a civilization.

The annual reunions of the Pioneers have had excellent attendance by both the members and their friends. At the first reunion about 125 were present and in 1933 from 375 to 400 Pioneers registered. The policy of the association has been to obtain and keep a complete record of early settlers in attendance.

It has been the source of a great deal of pleasure to the Pioneers themselves and their friends to observe the enjoyment this organization has given to the early settlers who have attended the reunions. Pioneers who had no acquaintance prior to their meeting at the reunions have felt a real kinship with each other. Many friendships have been made and renewed.

From year to year the entertainments for the Pioneers have taken many varied forms. There have been years when each one was requested to bring a basket lunch, while, on numbers of occasions lunches have been provided for the pioneers by generous contributors. The homes of Henrietta have been opened to the Pioneers and other guests.

Colorful parades have been outstanding features of the annual reunions. This is quoted from the description of one of the parades: Memories of the old Texas wagon trains and hard riding cowboys have been vividly aroused. Picturesque vehicles and equipage have been revealed. Riders in pioneer costume, pack horses, heavily burdened with the frontiersman's supplies, the ancient ox-cart, chuck wagons and prairie-schooners which rolled quietly over dim trails a half-century ago have formed the long column of parades.

The old west has lived again in the impressive array of its outmoded equipment, and for the hour, transported the cheering onlookers, along the streets of Henrietta, back to the thrilling atmosphere of pioneer days.

Formal programs, free tickets to the Rodeos, and theatres and Old Fiddler's contests have been part of the entertainment. The Street Dances, featuring the Pioneer and Modern dance, have added to the festivities.

On several occasions there has been the coronation of a king and queen, chosen from some pioneer family of Clay County, with the duchesses and ladies-in-waiting chosen from various communities of the county.

— CONTINUED —

History Clay County Pioneer's Ass'n...

The Clay County Pioneer association recalls with pride a number of features it has sponsored which have served to impress upon the people the mode of life of the early pioneer.

A group of Indians has attended several reunions, exhibited costumes and presented tribal and war-dances.

Magnificent historical pageants of Clay County have been produced in natural setting at the north edge of Henrietta, which were very colorful and impressive. Fashion revues have been most interesting, showing the trend of fashion from frontier days to the present.

Unusual antiques, gun collections, quilt and rug displays, or oriental exhibits, and cattle brands have been collected and exhibited. There, too, is the very fine collection of photographs of early pioneers.

A Military detachment, with its band from Ft. Sill has participated in a few reunions. The Gainesville circus on two occasions, under the auspices of the association, was an added attraction.

As the Pioneer association has honored the early settlers it has also sought to encourage the youth of the county by its interest in the schools, the 4-H Club girls and the Future Farmers of America. Exhibits from these groups have been given a place at the reunions.

The association's interest in the industry and prosperity of Clay County has been evidenced by the incorporation of agricultural, livestock and Home Demonstration Club exhibits.

The Clay County Pioneer Association views its past with pride, is conscious of the needs of the present, and looks to greater accomplishments in the future. Realizing its dependence upon the assistance from the many who are not eligible to membership, such as financial contributions from business men of the county and the services rendered by many others, the pioneer association takes this opportunity to express appreciation to all who have helped to make the organization a success.

On the following pages are a history and picture of all the forty-nine presidents.

First President - 1933



George S. Myers
(1865-1959)

George S. Myers was born in Marshalltown, Iowa, February 11, 1865. When he was sixteen, he came with his father and mother, a brother and two sisters to Clay County. They settled near where the town of Thornberry is now located. They had to live in a dugout for nearly a year while their house was being built. Their household goods were shipped by rail to Gainesville, which was the end of the Katy Railroad line. All lumber and supplies came from there, and it took about two weeks each trip they made.

As a young man, Mr. Myers made friends with the Indians who lived across the Red River in Indian Territory which is now Oklahoma. He lived with them from time to time and always had many colorful stories to tell as well as about his early life as a cowboy on the Tom Burnett ranch. Later he went into the ranching business near Jolly where he lived for sixty-four years. The ranch was known as the "Lazy A". In 1894, he married Myra Ottie Smith, a native of Alabama, who had moved west with her family. They had one son, the late Harry S. Myers. He married the late Ruth Nolen from Wichita Falls and their children are Mrs. Ikard Smith, Wichita Falls, Mrs. Charles E. Clowe, Ardmore, Okla., and the late Harry S. Myers, Jr.

When the Clay County Reunion was organized, George S. Myers served as the first President. He died in 1959 at the age of ninety-four.

Second President - 1934



Joseph White Douthitt
(1859-1937)

Joseph White Douthitt was the second person to be President of the Clay County Pioneers Association, filling that office in the third year of its existence. A quiet and unobtrusive person, a man who never sought publicity and avoided notoriety, he became the President of the Pioneers Association basically because of his long standing reputation in the community and the fact that his wife Kathrine Christian Douthitt was a member of the small group that arranged for the original founding meetings of that Association. Mr. and Mrs. Douthitt remained active in the organization from its beginning until the years of their respective deaths.

Mr. Douthitt was born in Collin County in 1859 and came to Clay County when he was fifteen years of age. He worked on various cattle ranches in North Texas and in Indian Territory, where he was a foreman for Suggs Brothers, all while saving his money until he could purchase land of his own.



Kathrine Christian Douthitt

Kathrine Christian Douthitt was born in Johnson County, Texas. The family had been told that she was the first Caucasian child born in that County. Her family later moved to Clay County where she later met and married Joe Douthitt in 1893.

They had three sons, Troy Douthitt, Ambrose Christian Douthitt (named after his grandfather, Ambrose Douthitt), and Cratus Franklin Douthitt.

As a result of hard work and saving, a modest size cattle operation was assembled by Mr. Douthitt and operated as J.W. Douthitt & Son. Later, in the early 1930s, as J.W. Douthitt & Sons, and later by the two surviving sons of Joe Douthitt, Troy and Ambrose under that same name.

All three sons are now deceased. Two of the grandsons still reside in Clay County and carry out the heritage that their grandfather established. The other grandchildren live in Wichita Falls and Dallas and are no longer involved in the ranching business. One grandson, Cratus Christian Douthitt, presently resides on the exact same location where his grandfather, his great grandmother and his grandmother began their ranching life together.

Kathrine Christian Douthitt was a collector of anecdotes and historical notes concerning the settling of the Clay County area, reducing all of the information collected to writing, and had it privately published for the benefit of the Pioneers Association. That publication received recognition to the extent that a second printing was necessary to supply the demand and again Mr. and Mrs. Douthitt privately funded this printing and donated the proceeds of the sale of all the books of the Pioneer Association. Copies of "Romance and Dim Trails" can be found in the University of Texas Library and various public libraries in the United States including New York City as well as in private collections, and has become quite a valuable collectors item as well as a genealogical assist for anyone studying the history of North Texas.

Third President - 1935



George Cunningham
(1860-1947)

George Cunningham was a true pioneer in every sense the term implies, not only in length of time of residence, but in the hardships he and his family endured. In Sherman, Texas, back in August 1874, the Cunningham family started west to make a new home. Household goods, provisions, lumber for a house, and family were loaded in the same wagon and hauled to Cambridge. Theirs was the first house to be built in that community and served as early home of George. This house was in later years moved to Henrietta.

George attended school in Cambridge where he studied the Blue-Back Speller, Ray's Arithmetic and McGuffey's Reader. The school, about half a mile east of Cambridge, was 12 feet by 20 feet with wooden benches. The students went to school in the summer instead of winter months.

George went up the Chisholm Trail twice. First time was 1875 when he was 15 yrs. old. They had 1,050 head of cattle of all colors, some with horns that would not go in a car door.

In 1888, George married Miss Ida Schwend. They had five children, Glenn, Jesse, John, Herbert and Mrs. Jack Kerbow. George worked for Dick Worsham and later in the meat market business in Henrietta.

George served as sheriff of Clay County for three terms (6 yrs.). On one occasion, a national magazine carried an article, citing as a record his shooting of an outlaw at 147 yards. The shooting took place at Jolly. The outlaw had drawn a rifle on 65-year-old Mr. Cunningham who shot the bandit with a pistol before he could fire the rifle.

George was interested in civic affairs, a member of local Masonic Lodge for 55 yrs. and member of Woodmen of the World. He died on June 25, 1947.

*In Memory of My Husband's Father,
Mrs. John (Mae) Cunningham*

Fourth President - 1936



August H. and Nellie A. Bevering
(1855-1936)

August H. Bevering was born in Keokuk, Iowa, in 1855. He came to Texas in 1873, first to Austin, then to San Antonio. He came to Clay County in 1877.

In 1878 he went to Wilbarger County where he plowed the first furrow in that county. He came back to Clay County in 1879 and started the LIT Ranch near Charlie along the Red River. He registered the LIT brand in Clay County in 1879. He also was interested in farming.

August married Nellie A. Hooker in 1882. They made their home in the Charlie Community, until moving to Henrietta in 1906.

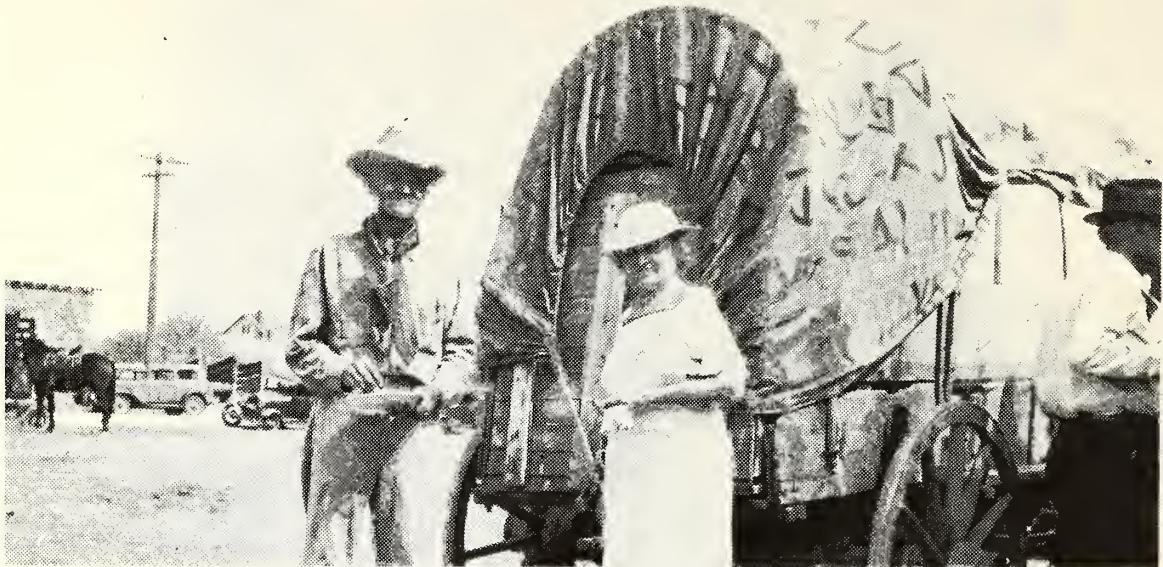
Mrs. Bevering was a native of Delaware County in Iowa. She came to Clay County with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. B.F. Hooker, who settled north of Henrietta in the early 1870s. Later they moved to the Charlie Community where they farmed.

Mr. and Mrs. Bevering had seven children: Minnie (Mrs. Allgood), Willie, Frank, John, Merrell, Sadie (Mrs. Hamm), and Ed.

Mr. Bevering was elected President of the Pioneer Association in 1936. He passed away before his term expired and Mrs. Bevering finished his term. She followed her husband in death in 1937.

*In Memory of Our Grandfather,
Bevering Grandchildren*

Fifth / Eleventh President 1937 / 1943



Virgil C. Johnson
(1874-1952)

Miss Lulu Johnson
(1869-1948)

Lulu Johnson

"Miss Lulu", as she was known by several generations of Clay County first graders, was born in Merced County, California, in 1869. She came to Cambridge, Clay County, in 1874, with her parents, William and Callie (Dyer) Johnson, and her brothers and sisters.

She was a member of the first graduating class of Henrietta High School. She received her Lifetime Teaching Certificate from Sam Houston Normal College, Huntsville, Texas. She taught in Bluegrove, Benvenue, Cambridge and Henrietta. She was teaching in Henrietta school at the time of the fatal fire of her home with Mr. and Mrs. Will (Stella Johnson) Douglass. She is buried in Henrietta Hope Cemetery.

She was a very active pioneer, serving as Pioneer Association President in 1937. The Johnson land, purchased in 1874 near Cambridge, known as the Stone House Ranch, is certified in the "Family Land Heritage" for remaining in the Johnson family for over 100 years.

Virgil Johnson

Virgil Curtis Johnson came to Cambridge, Clay County, in 1874, at the age of six weeks, from Gainesville, Cooke County. He lived in Cambridge until his death in June, 1952.

Virgil was a farmer, rancher and machinist. In the early 1920s, he conducted jackrabbit drives in Clay County, Montague County and in Oklahoma. The rabbits were caught out of the field and shipped to Coffeyville, Kansas, for dog races.

He attended all reunions held during his lifetime. In 1943 Virgil was President of the Clay County Pioneer Association. The Pioneer Reunion celebration was held only one day this year because of World War II.

In Honor of Miss Lulu and Virgil

*Letha, Cody, Frances, Debby, Nathan, Frank, Mrs. Virgil C. Johnson,
Zetta Kay and Billy Bob Beck, Kyle, Kevin and Christa*

Sixth President - 1938



S.L. (Sam) Russell
(1881-1973)

S.L. (Sam) Russell, the Sixth President of the Clay County Pioneer Association (1938) was born in Bluegrove, Texas, Clay County, 1881. He later moved to the Neville Community southwest of Henrietta in 1918, where he farmed and lived the remainder of his life until his death in 1973. He was the first president of Clay County Federal Loan Organization and continued as president for a number of years. He served as Trustee of the Bluegrove School for several years and was the Justice-of-the-Peace at Bluegrove. He was a member of the Henrietta Methodist Church. One of his early teachers at Bluegrove was the late Miss Lulu Johnson, the Fifth Clay County Reunion President.

Sam married Bertie McMasters at Bluegrove on December 18, 1904. Bertie served as a duchess at the Clay County Reunion in 1958. To this union seven children were born. One son died as an infant. The children living are: Lorene Lowry Langford, Henrietta; Jewell E. Russell, Wichita Falls; Gladys Maddux, New Port Beach, California; (Twins) Ira (Bud) Russell, Wichita Falls, and Ina Crump, Bluegrove; and Clara Childs, Bluegrove.

The Russell Cattle Brand was the "Rocking R".

*In Memory of Our Father,
Lorene, Jewell, Gladys, Bud, Ina, and Clara*

Seventh President — 1939

CS



Charles & Mamie Scheer
(1873-1938) (1875-1959)

Charles (Charlie) Scheer came to Clay County from Berlin, Germany, in 1885, when he was 12 years old, with his parents, Frederick Charles and Agnes Scheer, and 6 younger brothers and sisters. Mr. F.C. Scheer had been a breeder of fine horses in Germany, some of which were race horses. In Clay county they became farmers.

Charlie preferred the cowboy life, however, and worked on the W.S. Ikard ranch for Gen. Jordan for about two years.



The Charles Scheer Home

In 1889 Charlie participated in the Oklahoma land run near Enid, Indian Territory. He staked a claim but was too young to file it so he sold it for two black horses. He also went to the opening of the Kiowa and Commanche Nation Lands, but did not draw a claim.

In 1896 Charlie was building fence for Chris Sanzenbacher. He met Mamie Sanzenbacher at a Mollie Bailey traveling circus (which preceded the Wild Bill Hickock Shows). Mamie was the eldest child of Chris and Lucy Sanzenbacher and was the first child born in Clay Co., in the year 1875.

At the age of fifteen, Mamie led the mule pulling the rock-hauling wagon to build the two-story landmark house in South Clay County.

Charlie and Mamie were married in 1897 and became the parents of seven children: Annie, Carl, Henry, Herman, Elizabeth, Thelma, and Eddie. Now deceased are Elizabeth Germany, Carl, Henry, and Herman. Still living are Annie McClure, Thelma Prigmore, and Eddie.

Charlie and Mamie both loved good horses, but were pioneer ranchers, starting at the end of the longhorns and the beginning of the modern period of cattle production. They also operated a meat market until his death.

During the drought of the '30s, Mr. Scheer bought trainloads of cattle from West Texas sending them by rail to the Fort Worth stockyards.

Their pride was in developing a herd of registered Herefords.

Mr. Scheer was a founder of the Pioneer Association, a founder of the First National Bank where he remained a director until his death. He was a member of the Methodist Church, K.P. Lodge, Chamber of Commerce, Woodmen of The World and was active in and a contributor to all civic affairs.

After Charlie's death in Nov. 1938, Mamie finished his term as pioneer President. "Grandma" Scheer also managed the ranch business affairs — expanding her land holdings and improving her cattle herds until her death in 1959.

Countless numbers of boys and young men found work, encouragement to go to school and a home with the Scheer family over a span of nearly forty years.

Descendants number 12 grandchildren, 21 great-grandchildren, and 13 great-great-grandchildren.

There were no Scheer male descendants born for 32 years until 1978, when Gary Charles Scheer Jr. (a great-grandchild) was born.

Eighth President — 1940



George Henson (Hence) Harding
(1862-1959)

George Henson (Hence) Harding was born in Warren County, Tennessee, in 1862, the son of George and Martha Hennessey Harding. He moved to Howe, Grayson County, Texas, with his family in 1874. He was a cowboy and went on several cattle drives from Grayson County to Kansas.

Hence married Ida Anderson in 1897 and they reared six children: Paul, who married Unice Long; Wade, who married Happy Stine; Roy, who died at the age of fourteen; George, who died in infancy; Venita, who married Doc Thorsheim; and Madeline, who married Wallace Ligon.

Hence Harding and his family moved to Byers, Texas, about 1914, and Hence worked at the Stine Ranch until it was sold to P.P. Lankford. Hence worked as a ranch hand most all his life, so he had an inside-out knowledge of the old West. He told about his dealings with the Indians and especially about his acquaintance with Quanah Parker. One story Hence told about was the time Parker went to Washington on land lease business. Government officials there urged Parker to tell his five wives that he must have only one wife. Parker replied, "you tell 'em."

Another experience Hence remembered vividly was seeing Geronimo when the Indian was imprisoned at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. He described Geronimo as the "meanest looking" person he ever saw. Hence, who spoke Comanche enough to get by, had countless other experiences with the Indians and just life in general about the old West.

Hence was President of the Clay County Pioneer Association in 1940. He died in December 1959, at the age of ninety-six. He is buried in the Riverside Cemetery in Byers, Texas.

Ninth President - 1941



I.E. Childs
(1872-1963)

I.E. Childs was born in Grayson County, Texas, on September 22, 1872. He came to Bluegrove, Texas, with his parents, the late Mr. and Mrs. James L. Childs, as a young man. He was married to Lou Russell in 1894 and had four children: Oran, Carl, and Opal Fields, all deceased, and Lola Lou (Top) Williams, now living in Santa Rosa, California.

On February 5, 1904, he was married to Frances Bumpass, daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Robert C. Bumpass. They had six children, Ira, Ray, Ralph, and Spencer, all deceased, Kelvin of Bluegrove and Zena Roenfeldt of Wichita Falls, Texas.

He owned and operated a drug store and was postmaster at Bluegrove, Texas. He held a certificate from the Texas State Board of Pharmacy for 50 years of service. He remained active in his later years working part time in pharmacies in Bowie and Henrietta. He was president of Clay County Pioneer Association in 1941. He died March 6, 1963.

*In Memory of our Grandfather,
Frances, Abby, Joan, Carla, Kathern, Pam,
Paul, Kim, and Debbie.*

Tenth President - 1942



William H. and Lucy Ann Cullers
(1867-1948)

William H. Cullers was born September 20, 1867, in Sedalia, Missouri. He came to Clay County in 1876 with his parents, John Randolph and Martha Cullers. His older brother, Charles K. Cullers, had come to Clay County in 1870.

In 1900 William H. Cullers married Lucy Ann Young of Buffalo Springs. They were members of the First Christian Church and the Baptist Church. To this union were born: Mrs. Sudie Shackelford (deceased), J. Edgar (deceased), and Floyd W. Cullers.

The Cullers family received a certificate of honor in 1976 for a century or more of continuous family ownership and operation of a family agriculture enterprise by the Family Land Heritage Program. The Cullers ranch was founded in 1876. Floyd W. and his wife, Eva, live on the original homestead in the New London Community and raise registered Brangus cattle with their son, Bill, and daughter-in-law, Linda, and their children, Brenda Jan, Justin William, and Cara Ann Cullers.

William H. Cullers served as President of Clay County Pioneers Association in 1942.

*In Memory of Our Father and Mother,
Floyd and Eva
Bill and Linda
Brenda, Justin, and Cara Ann*

Twelfth President - 1944



Nellie Bates Green with Her Father, David Bates
(1888-1961)

Nellie Bates Green was born in Indiana in 1888. She was the only child of David and Rachie Bates. David Bates, a real estate man, rode the first Katy train over Red River to Sherman from Kansas City. David drove a wagon to Denison, loaded it with all provisions, went to Gainesville, then on to Clay County. He homesteaded 80 acres of land and traded a set of harness and a buggy to a doctor for 120 acres. He raised the first cotton in Clay County. He had to drive to Gainesville to get it baled and only got 3 cents a pound for it. This ended his farming career. He had a log cabin where he sold provisions to ranchers. Up until this time, David was good friends with the Indians. In 1873 or '74, settlers came in and began having trouble with the Indians. The many killings, made David decide to return to Indiana. Because of his friendship with the Indians, they escorted him through what is now Oklahoma.

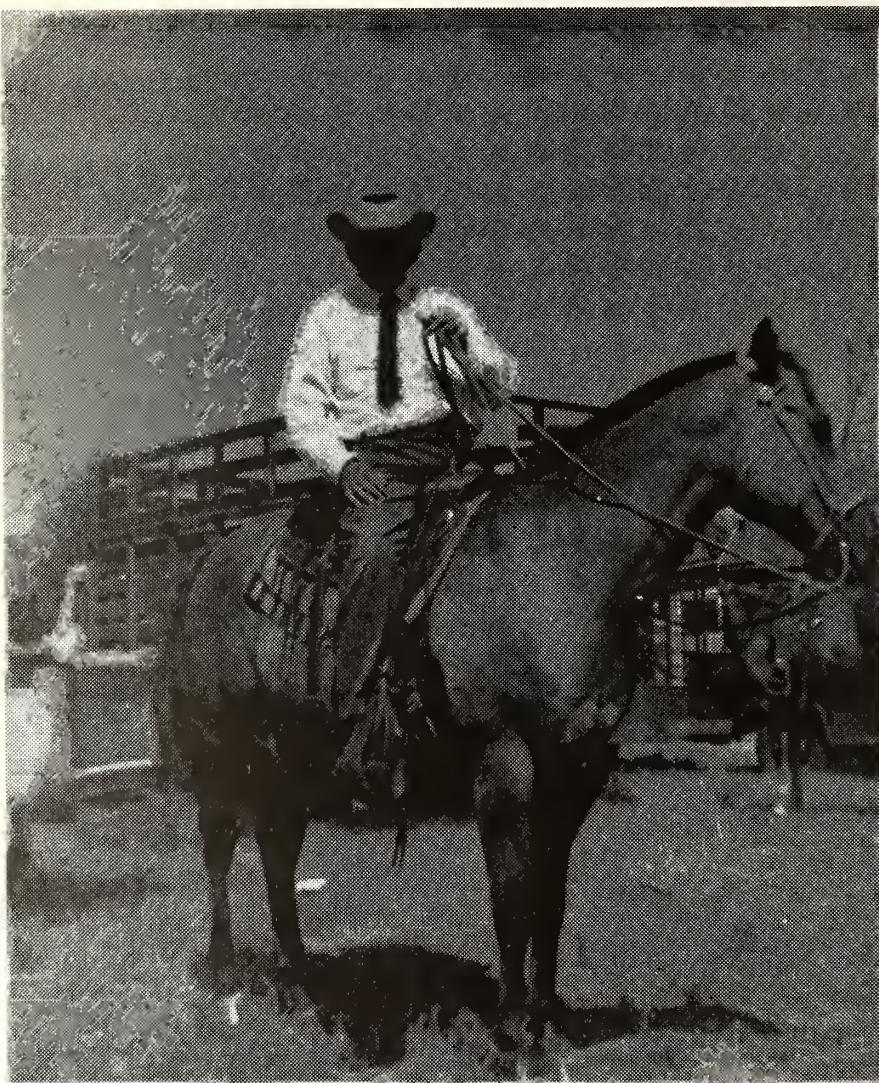
In 1900 David came back to Texas and settled in Fort Worth. He moved to Bowie in 1903, and back to Clay County in 1904. He had the first tax receipt in Clay County showing he paid taxes of \$10.00.

Nell came to Clay County with her father in 1904. She married Tom Green on November 28, 1929. Their first date was to a County Fair in Wichita Falls. They had a courtship of ten years. In 1919 David built a home where Tom and Nell lived all their married life. Tom still lives in this home.

Nell loved and collected music and played the piano. She belonged to the Nevin Music Club, the Unity Club and the American Legion. She was a member of the Episcopal Church, but she is remembered by many here for the work she did in the Christian Church, of which her father was a member. She gave about 30 acres of land for the new part of the Henrietta Cemetery and was active in the Cemetery Association.

Nell and Tom attended the first Clay County Pioneer Reunion in 1932 and attended every year until her death in 1961. They even rode in the first parade in a decorated wagon loaded with children. Nell was elected President of the Pioneer Association to honor her father, David Bates, who passed away in 1928.

Thirteenth President — 1945



Tom Watson
(1880-1965)

Tom Watson was born August 6, 1880, in Montague County and moved to Clay County at the age of two.

Tom married Miss Hattie Hawkins on December 27, 1908. On Armistice Day, World War I, they moved into their Rock Ranch Home and lived there until their death. They had one son, W.B. Watson; two grandchildren, LaJuan and Weldon; and five great-grandchildren.

Tom was a lifetime member of the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association. He was a rancher in the Shannon community over eighty years.

Tom attended every parade and rodeo performance of the Clay County Association. He rode his horse in the parade when he was 85 years old as he had done almost every year. He was President of the Clay County Pioneer Association in 1945.

Fourteenth President — 1946



Cyrus Coleman
(1870-1948)

Cyrus Coleman was born in Ohio County, Ky., June 15, 1870. Cyrus came to Denton County, Texas, when he was five years old and moved to Clay County with his parents, the G.W. Colemans, in 1888.

His father purchased the Henrietta Independent, which is still published in consolidation with the Clay County Leader. Cyrus became the editor-in-chief upon his father's death in 1889 and was identified as one of North Texas' most loved and respected newspapermen. In December, 1945, Cyrus closed a 57-year career as editor and publisher of the weekly paper in Clay County.

Cyrus married Elizabeth Blanche Monroe. She became the social editor, handling weddings, club meetings, etc. She passed away in 1940. They had two children, Clay, who died in 1943 and Una May. Una May attended Baylor University and taught Mrs. Rex (Myrtle) Gates English in 1924 at Bowie High School. Una May married Amos Howard, who was postmaster at Lubbock. They had two children, Amos H. Howard, Jr. of Lubbock and Elizabeth Howard Hawkins of Lovington, New Mexico.

Cyrus was a member of the First Baptist Church of Henrietta and served as a member of the Board of deacons several years. A Clay County friend remembers Cyrus "always being at church and singing in the choir with his eyes looking upward as if he were singing his way into heaven."

Cyrus was the Clay County Pioneer President in 1946. He passed away in Lubbock in July, 1948.

*In Memory of My Grandfather,
Amos Howard, Jr.*

Fifteenth President - 1947



Ena Neville Ikard
(1888 - 1969)

Ena Neville was born near Bluegrave, Texas, on her father's ranch. When she was a very young child her family moved to Henrietta and her father, Frank P. Neville, founded a local bank, although he continued his ranching and land development activities there. Her mother was Sarah Catherine Pierce from Basque County, Texas.

Ena Neville attended public schools in Henrietta. She later attended a Catholic convent in Wichita Falls, a girls' school in New York City and the University of Nebraska in Lincoln.

After returning to Henrietta from school, she married Lewis (E. L.) Ikard, the son of another pioneer family. His father, W. S. Ikard, also headed a bank in Henrietta and was a rancher. He brought the first hereford cattle to Texas. He served as one of the early directors of the Texas State Fair in Dallas and the Fort Worth Exposition and Livestock Show.

W. S. Ikard was one of the largest early ranchers in Texas; his cowboys joined with others and moved the Post Office to Henrietta from Cambridge, thereby assuring that Henrietta would be the county seat. He was also one of the first County Commissioners and served when the present courthouse was built.

Ena Neville Ikard lived her entire adult life in Henrietta, where she was active and supportive in the Clay County Library, the Clay County Pioneers Association, The Unity Club in Henrietta, the Women's Forum in Wichita Falls, and many other civic activities, including the garden club in Wichita Falls. Her father was one of the founders of the Episcopal Church in Henrietta. She was very active and supportive of that church. She was also active in public and government affairs and served on many state commissioners and boards, particularly those relating to the programs for handicapped and dependent children. She served on several committees for the Texas Centennial Celebration in 1936.

She was honored by the Texas-Oklahoma Fair as Woman of the Year and was also recognized on several occasions by the Texas Chamber of Commerce and received a number of awards in recognition of her public and community services.

Ena N. Ikard and Lewis Ikard had one son, Frank Neville Ikard, who after graduating from the University of Texas Law School, practiced law in Wichita Falls and was appointed Judge of the 30th Judicial Court. He was elected to the U. S. House of Representatives in 1951 where he served for over ten years. He resigned from the House to become President of the American Petroleum Institute from which he retired on January 1, 1979. He is presently practicing law in Washington, D. C.

She has two grandsons; Frank Neville Ikard, Jr., who is a lawyer practicing law in Austin and William Farsyth Ikard, also a lawyer practicing law in Houston.

She was President of the Clay County Pioneer Association in 1947 and Pioneer Queen in 1964.

Sixteenth President - 1948



A.V. Slagle
(1885-1965)

The Slagle family has resided in Clay County since 1889, Elizabeth Slagle owning a rooming and dining house in Henrietta at E. Gilbert Street. Her children were Clara, who married George Gaither; Everett, cashier with W.B. Worsham bank; Jess, Photographer and Druggist associated with Dr. Ferris, later moving to Houston, Texas, (you will see many old pictures of scenes in and near Henrietta with the name Slagle on them); and A.V. Slagle, State Land Surveyor and Abstracter for more than 60 years whose Slagle Abstract Company at 111 W. Gilbert Street has been in business in the same location for more than 50 years. Two of his sons, Carl and Ray, operate this business.

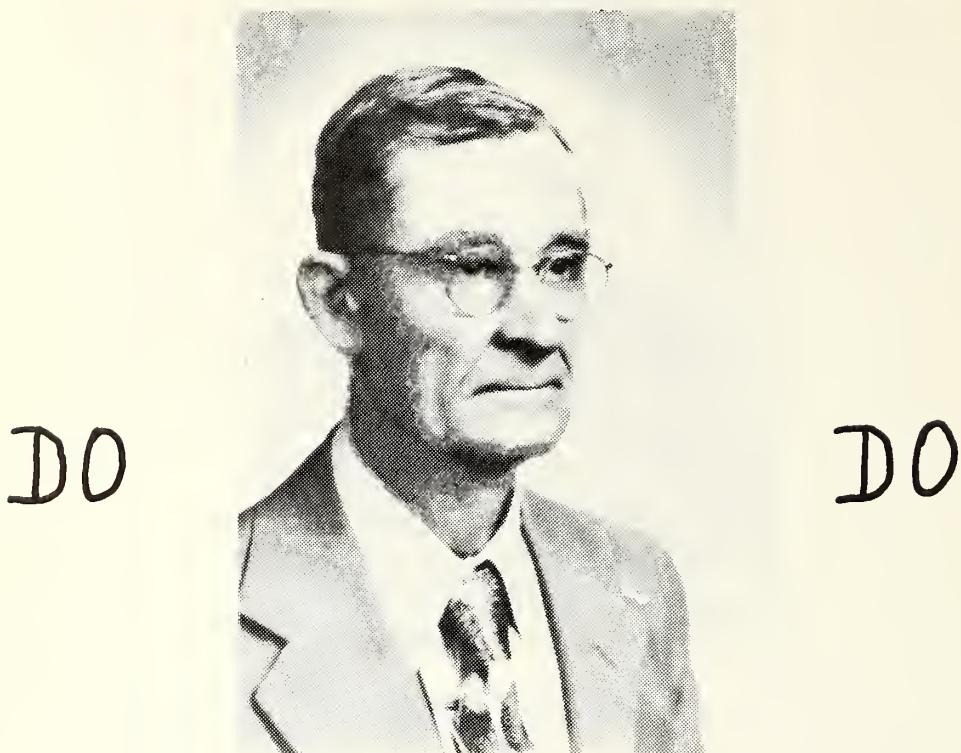
Mrs. A.V. Slagle, daughter of William B. Smith, former Texas Ranger and rancher, was born in Clay County. Ida, her sister, was the second child born in Clay County.

All the A.V. Slagle family, Kenneth, Carl, and Ray, reside in Clay County. Don and Mary Elizabeth also resided in Clay County until their deaths.

A.V. Slagle, deceased May 17, 1965, was often referred to as "Mr. Henrietta" for his work and civic pride in his Town and County.

*In Memory of Our Father,
Kenneth, Carl, and Ray*

Seventeenth President - 1949



H.C. Zachry, Sr.
(1878-1963)

H.C. Zachry, Sr. was born in Tyler, Smith County, Texas, in 1878. He was the sixth child of eight children of Mr. and Mrs. Abner D. Zachry. His parents moved to Clay County in 1888, when he was ten years old, and settled in the Bevanue Community.

As a young man, H.C. worked for some of the larger ranches in North Clay County. They were Byers Bros., John Burrus, Joe Douthitt, and he also helped across the Red River on the Sugg Ranch during the spring roundups.

H.C. filed and drew a claim in Oklahoma (Indian Territory) just west of Waurika on the Red River. Later in 1903, he married Dora Lea Frey. They lived in the Petrolia area and in 1930 bought land on the Stanfield Ranch.

H.C. was a director of the Pioneer Association in 1944 and Pioneer President in 1949. He greatly enjoyed working and supporting the Pioneer Association and Reunion.

The Zachry children are Buster, Claude, Carl, and Everett of Clay County, Elsie, and Katherine of Wichita Falls, and Willie Fae of Canyon, Texas.

Mr. and Mrs. Zachry moved to Henrietta in 1949, where they lived until his death in 1963.

Eighteenth President - 1950



Miss Arcola Goad
(1883-1974)

Miss Arcola Goad, the youngest of James O. Goad (an avid student of the history of Spain) and Mary C. Hunter Goad's six children were born at Tennessee Colony, Texas, on Feb. 22, 1883. At the age of two she, with her brothers Salada, Cibola, Balboa, and sisters Celona and Mitah, moved from Tennessee Colony to Loop (an early Postal Stop) some three miles West of Fannintown, i.e., later renamed Joy. Here it was that Miss Arcola spent her childhood and most of her adult years. For a livelihood she continued her parents interest in farming and ranching. Eventually oil was procued on the family property. In 1960 she moved to Iowa Park, where she lived until her death on March 31, 1974.

Miss Arcola's life was filled with many interests. For many years she and Miss Mossie Hicks, who lived with the Goad family, cared for Mother Goad. For all her years she was an active member of the Joy Baptist Church, participated in the school program, the Community and Cemetery Association, and as a concerned citizen of our state and nation. She loved both the youth and the aged and unselfishly lived and served to make the community and county a "better place in which to live."

Her election as President of The Clay County Pioneer's Association in 1950 attests to the measure of appreciation for which this noble Pioneer Lady was held. Long may the memory and the influence of a truly great lady bless every citizen of Clay County.

In Grateful Memory of Miss Arcola Goad,
The Joy Community

Nineteenth President - 1951



J.B. Dunn
(1866-1954)

J.B. Dunn, pioneer rancher and farmer of Clay County, was born July 21, 1866, in Cascade, Virginia. He came to the Texas-Oklahoma border area in 1887 and operated a ferry on the Red River until railroads came into the area about 1900. It was through this enterprise that he acquired the beginning of his land holdings.

He built his huge two-story home on a knoll overlooking some 800 acres of grazing land and the city of Byers. He lived at this residence until his death on November 14, 1954.

J.B. and his wife, Dora, were the parents of seven children...five boys and two girls. His only living children are Clay, John and Milton of Byers. They are still farming some of the land left to them by their parents.

Twentieth President — 1952

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Lauren Benjamin (Buster) Hapgood
(1903-1980)

L.B. (Buster) Hapgood was born on August 30, 1903, in Summit, South Dakota. He graduated from Sairbault Military Academy, Minnesota, and attended the University of Wisconsin in Madison, Wisconsin.

Buster was the son of K.N. and Leola (Worsham) Hapgood. His grandparents were the W.B. Worshams, who settled in Clay County in 1882.

Buster was president of the Clay County Pioneer Association in 1952. This was the year the present rodeo grounds and arena were built.

He was a member of the Trinity Episcopal Church in Henrietta, and a member of the Hella Temple Shrine, Dallas, a 33rd degree Mason of Henrietta.

Buster passed away in January, 1980. He is survived by two daughters, four grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

The New Era of the Greater Reunion

During the beginning of the year 1951, a small group of enthusiastic Clay County citizens decided the Pioneer Association needed a permanent reunion site which would consist of buildings, rodeo arena, and parking area.

This small group called a meeting in the Old St. Elmo Hotel and Coffee Shop and organized by establishing elected offices consisting of Pioneer President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer, and a governing board consisting of nine men elected to represent each section of Clay County with three men to retire each year and three new men to be elected.

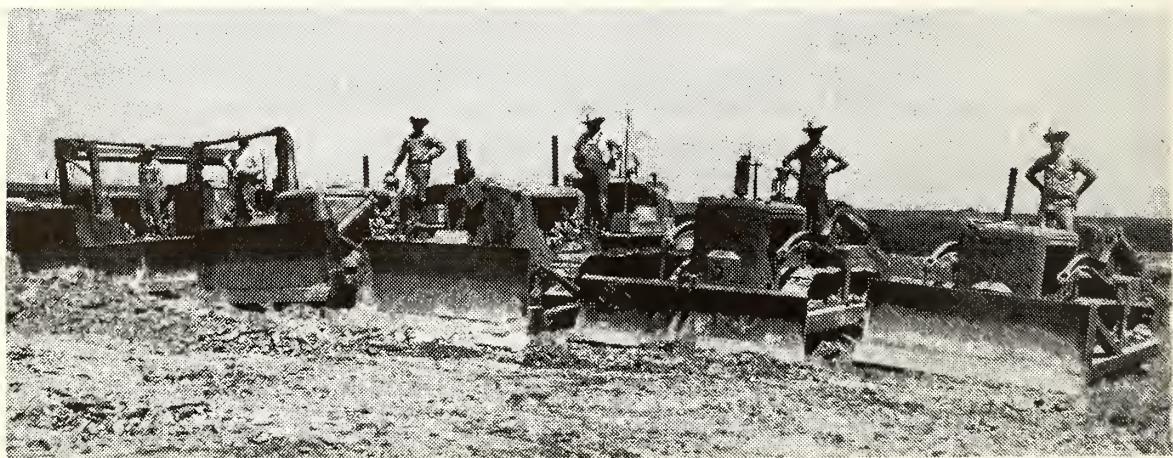
The first meeting consisted of the following men: L.B. Hapgood, Jimmy Heath, Croxton Maddox, Lawrence Nuckolls, Jess Dunn, Goat Mayo, Claud Wynn, Cecil Donnell, Ambrose Douthitt, A.V. Slagle, and Burford Scaling.

As our supporters grew, the committee moved to the District Court Room, and the work started in earnest. Committees were formed to canvass the entire county for donations to raise funds in cash, labor, truckers, carpenters, plumbers, electricians, bulldozers, oil companies and many more.

In 1952 the Pioneer Association dream became a reality. The site was bought, and dedication was held. Buildings, rodeo arena, and grounds were on the way.

The rodeo arena was named after Tex Rickard, a former Clay Countian who became a famous fight promoter. Old timers remembered him as Dink Rickard, for that's the name they knew him by from his boyhood days in the 1870s in Clay County until the Alaskan gold rush, later to New York City. It was in Alaska that Dink received the nickname "Tex." He served as city marshal here in Henrietta and worked as a cowboy on some of the ranches here. Tex Rickard built Madison Square Gardens at the cost of \$5,000,000. This is the only sports arena in the world dedicated in his name.

Many of our great boosters are now deceased, but they will always be in our memories.



These six bulldozers were the first of some 20 to appear on Monday to begin levelling the 20 acre site. All were donated. Left to right, are Jess Jordan, of Wright Bros.; Monroe Lindsay of the Scaling Ranch; Sam Adams, Henrietta, operator; Boyd Wright of the Wright Bros.; Milton Adams, with Sam Adams; and Tommy Tackett, of Moral Rogers firm in W.F.



June 9, 1952

At the dedication were a trio representing well-known Clay County pioneer families. Left to right are Mrs. J.W. Douthitt, Mrs. Lewis Ikard and Mrs. C.S. (Mamie) Scheer, a past president of the Association.



L.B. (Buster) Hapgood, President of the Clay County Pioneer Association, is shown as he shoveled the first dirt to mark the beginning of construction on the permanent reunion site. The 20-acre site, which is on the northern edge of Henrietta, was acquired from Carl Scheer.

Twenty-First President - 1953



Lawrence Nuckolls
(1901-)

Pioneer President Lawrence Nuckolls, a former Rancher and former Clay County Official, was born near Buffalo Springs, Texas, October 3, 1901. His parents were William S. Nuckolls and Georgia Emily Fair, also Pioneer Ranchers.

He attended Bellevue High School in Bellevue, Texas, and Terrell Prep School of Dallas, Texas. He was married to Freda H. Smith, also of Bellevue, March 18, 1924 in Dallas, Texas. Freda Nuckolls passed away August 4, 1979.

Lawrence has the distinction of being the oldest Pioneer President living prior to 1967--and who still attends the Pioneer Parades and activities each year.

Lawrence Nuckolls was President of the Clay County Pioneer Association in the year 1953...and a member of the Nine-Man Board for a 3-year term, 1955-1956 and 1957. He was active in organizational work and re-building the Reunion for many years in the early 1950s...assisting with the building of the Tex Rickard Arena and creating the Nine-Man Board in 1951...being the second President of the Pioneer Association following the dedication of the Arena.

He is a member of the First Baptist Church in Bellevue, Texas...has one sister Winifred (Winnie) Nuckolls Boutwell of Henrietta, and a brother, Hubert D. Dishman of Midland.

Twenty-Second President — 1954



P.H. Boddy
(1876-1974)

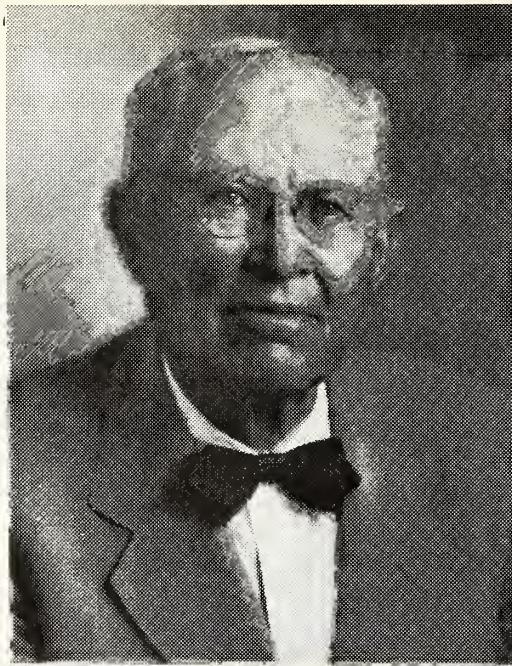
HB

Willie Boddy
(1877-1975)
Pioneer Queen - 1968

P.H. Boddy was born on a corn farm in Central Iowa in the year 1876. He moved to Clay County in 1898 and with his father H. Boddy purchased the Clay County Land and Cattle Company. He continued to operate the ranch until his death in 1974, after which the operation of the ranch has been continued by his son H. Macon Boddy and his grandson, Macon Clark Boddy.

Willie Patterson Boddy was born in Cambridge, Clay County, in the year 1877. She became the wife of P.H. Boddy in the year 1908 and continued to live in Clay County until her death in 1975.

Twenty-Third President — 1955



Dr. A.B. Edwards
(1866-1957)

Dr. A.B. Edwards was born on Elm Fork of the Trinity near Valley View in 1866. His Father, Jackson Perry Edwards, came with an immigration train to Texas from Tennessee in 1844 and settled on Elm Fork. When Dr. Edwards was 11 months old, his father died and his mother took over active management of their livestock business.

Dr. Edwards was a graduate of the medical branch of the University of Louisville in 1886 and came to Antelope to practice medicine. He formed a partnership with his brother, C.B. Edwards, to establish a supply store and cattle business. They obtained their first land in Clay County in 1888, a ranch near Antelope and stocked it in part with livestock taken in on grocery and doctor bills.

He practiced over parts of Archer, Clay, Jack and Young counties. The ranches were far apart and he had to have good horses and buggies to look after the people. He had good teams when he had to get somewhere in a hurry. If possible he went in a single buggy so he could take more medicine and equipment with him, however, he went on horseback many times.

In 1889 Dr. Edwards married Bettie Moore, daughter of Capt. James Bryant Moore of Jacksboro. Their three children are Mrs. Lucian Parrish, Bryant Edwards and A.B. (Kirk) Edwards, both of Henrietta.

In 1901 Dr. Edwards moved to Henrietta. He continued his practice of medicine until 1906. He was constantly building his cattle business and trying new and modern methods of ranching. He became a member of the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association in 1900.

After Mrs. Edwards' death in March, 1950, Dr. Edwards became less active in the cattle business. Bryant and Kirk have continued this cattle operation.

In 1953 Dr. Edwards and his sons gave the Edwards Public Library to the citizens of Clay County in honor of Mrs. Bettie Edwards.

Dr. Edwards was a leader in activities of the Clay County Pioneer Association for many years, serving as president in 1955.

Twenty-Fourth President - 1956



Frank Robert Hurn
(1880-1966)

Frank Hurn, the son of William and Mary Hurn who came to Clay County in 1879, was born October 15, 1880, in a snow-blanketed log cabin not far from where the Hurn family located permanently on Long Creek in 1881. The lumber to build the 2-room house for their new home was hauled by wagon from Gainesville. The community of Hurnville, first called Plainview, was named in honor of Mr. Hurn's father when a post office was established there in 1891.

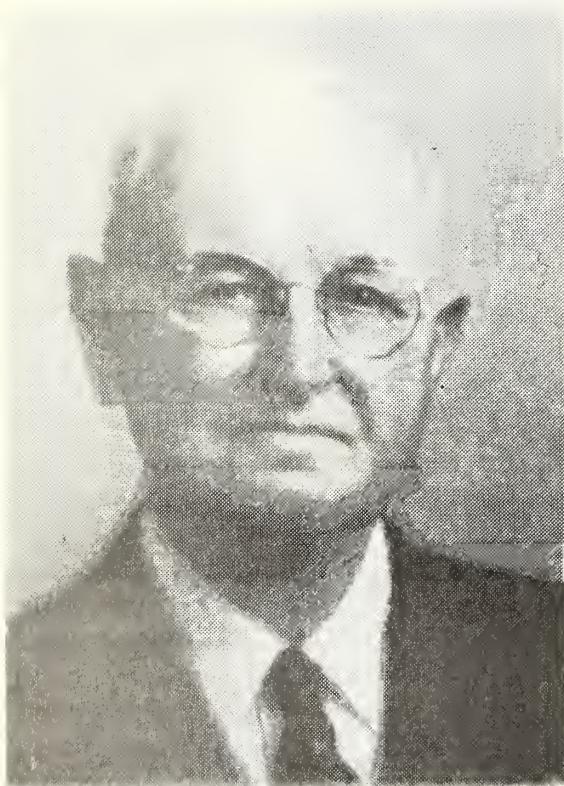
The Hurn home on the Ft. Sill Wagon Road was a frequent stopping place for thirsty travelers who stopped to drink the cold water and refill their water jugs from the 33-foot-deep well dug by Dr. C.F. Acres around 1874. The Ft. Sill Wagon Road was an important military road running between Ft. Sill and Ft. Jacksboro. Mr. Hurn often told of watching soldiers and military wagons pass by as they were moved from one post to another. "Many times," he would recall, "the line of march disappeared over Thaxton's Hill (2 miles south of the Hurn home) before the end of the line passed by."

Frank Hurn graduated from Henrietta High School in 1899. After graduation, he chose to acquire a small herd of cattle which he kept across Red River rather than to attend the University of Texas proposed by his father. He loved the outside, mustang cow ponies, and two-horse buggy teams. He claimed he had the 'fastest' buggy team in Clay County and stood ready to take on anyone who challenged him. While a young boy, he spent hours listening to cowboys tell tales of fighting 'rannahans' and other ferocious beasts when he visited the camp grounds on Long Creek just west of the Hurn home.

After the death of his mother in 1906, Mr. Hurn bought his father's interest in the homeplace where he lived until his death in 1966. In May, 1909, he married Emily Maude Cox, the oldest daughter of a Young County pioneer. She graduated from Henrietta High School in 1905 and taught school in Clay County 4 years before her marriage. The schools she taught include Halsell, Riverland, and Hurnville. Frank Hurn's favorite person was Pioneer Queen in 1963.

Mr. and Mrs. Hurn were the parents of Eugene, a retired Naval Officer and college professor, of Wichita Falls, Robert, a Clay County physician who retired after 40 years of General Practice, of Henrietta, and Richard, a retired engineer, of Bartlesville, Oklahoma. Two daughters, Rosemary, a teacher in Henrietta Public Schools several years, and Margaret, a Registered Nurse, are deceased.

Twenty-Fifth President - 1957



Henry Sanzenbacher
(1881-1970)



Secret Springs

Henry Sanzenbacher was born in a log cabin to Chris and Lucy (Carle) Sanzenbacher in the Secret Springs Community eight years after the Sanzenbacher Family settled in Clay County the year before the county was re-established in 1874. "Mr. Henry" devoted his entire life to three things — his family and friends, to the development of Clay County, and to building the Sanzenbacher Ranch at Secret Springs. He justifiably took pride in all three.

While true to his pioneer heritage, he looked ahead and built through hard work and forward thinking, operating his place with the help of his wife Elsie and their son Carle, as a modern, efficient ranch. He was also a pioneer in bringing purebred Polled Hereford cattle into Clay County in 1920. Sixty-one years later, to-

day's Sanzenbacher herd traces back to those first animals which were freighted in from Ohio. At the time it was thought this signalled the end of the Longhorn at the ranch, but this proved to be only a long interruption in the contribution of the Longhorns as they are being re-introduced as a "modernization" in the ranch's heifer breeding program.

His pioneering spirit and many of his early ranching practices are still applicable today in the Southwest and are very evident in the continuing operation of the ranch under the present management of Mrs. Henry (Elsie) Sanzenbacher.

The Sanzenbacher Home was built in 1890-1891 in the Secret Springs Community and is still in use today by the Sanzenbacher Family.



Sanzenbacher Home

Twenty-sixth President - 1958



Jim Alcorn
(1872-1960)

*In Memory of Jim and Edna Alcorn
And Mary Jane "Pap" Humphrey
Mr. & Mrs. Jim (Paula) Humphrey
Mr. and Mrs. Danny (Jan) Brock
Mr. Reggie Humphrey*

Jim Alcorn was born in 1872, in Henrietta. His father, Joseph F. Alcorn, son of James and Mary (Stine) Alcorn, was born in Owensburg, Indiana, in 1857. At the age of sixteen, Joseph Alcorn left his parents and came to Texas, beginning life there as a clerk in the grocery store of J. W. Gray in Sherman and later moving to Henrietta. He began his business in 1880 and through his fair and honorable dealings, won the friendship of the people in town, the cowboys and Chief Quanah Parker. The Indians had their dances where the Courthouse now stands and the Chief and his tribe bought many fine pieces of merchandise such as fancy colored cloth and blankets from Mr. Alcorn's store. Chief Quanah Parker was married in Henrietta and Mr. Alcorn was best man at the wedding and sometime later when the Chief took to himself another bride, Mr. Alcorn was again best man at the wedding.

Joseph Alcorn married Miss Ellen Douglass in 1880 and to them six children were born, two died in youth. The other children, now deceased, were James Franklin (Jim) Alcorn, Mrs. Ethel Green, Mrs. Mattie Ellis and Mrs. Bill Burkett. After the death of Mrs. Ellen Alcorn, he married Sophie Elwert and to them twin sons, Joe and Paul, were born.

Jim Alcorn continued to operate the Dry Goods Store and was one of Henrietta's most enterprising citizens. His interest in civic betterment, his high standards of living and his ability to pour oil on troubled waters made him a man to whom many went for help and guidance. He married Carrie Edna Lockhart of Sulphur, Oklahoma, and to them was born one daughter, Mary Jane "Pap" Alcorn. Mr. Alcorn was one of the original founders of the First National Bank of Henrietta. After the failure of the Worsham Bank, he operated a bank from his store, J. F. Alcorn Dry Goods, mainly cashing checks for the citizens of the county. He made arrangements with the First National Bank of Wichita Falls to cash these checks, which he carried to the bank daily, personally taking full responsibility of these checks.

Mary Jane Alcorn married Reggie Humphrey in 1939 and to this marriage, twins were born, Jim and Jan. Jan is married to Danny Brock of Buffalo Springs and they have three daughters; Stacey, age ten; Mary Jane and Laurie Beth, twins, born June 30, 1981.

Jim is married to Paula King of Wichita Falls and they have two sons, William Alan and James Scott and one daughter, Kristin Ann.

Twenty-Seventh President — 1959



Carl Davenport Garner
(1891-1981)

Carl Davenport Garner was born June 23, 1891, to William Manley Garner and Sarah Ellen Bell Garner. Up until Carl's death on July 4, 1981, he resided in Clay County on the old Red River Land and Cattle Company Headquarters which his parents had acquired in 1885. Along with his brother, Claude Richard Garner, and his sister-in-law, Gertie Sexton Garner, he maintained their ranch as the Garner Brothers. Carl's family included an older brother William Hubert Garner (1887-1969); two nieces: Mrs. Lou Ellen Watson and Mrs. Claudia Castle, both of Shannon, Texas; and two nephews: John Calvin Garner of Henrietta, Texas, and James (Billy) Garner of Bowie, Texas, as well as numerous great nephews and nieces.

Carl attended school at Deer Grove across the road from their land. His hobbies included wolf hunting, square dancing, and in his later years domino playing. He served as a past president of the Pioneer Association in 1959.

*In Memory of Our Brother and Uncle,
Mr. & Mrs. C.R. (Babe) Garner
Lou Ellen Watson Claudia Castle
John Garner Billy Garner*

Twenty-Eighth President - 1960



George Z. Wright
(1890-1966)

George Z. Wright was born in Hubbard, Texas, October 28, 1890, and came to Bellevue in December, 1890. His parents, William Frederick and Martha Leftwich Wright, both natives of Columbia, Tennessee, settled in Hubbard, Texas, in early 1880 and moved to Bellevue in 1890.

George Z. Wright was married to Kate D. Wadsworth, October 26, 1911. Mrs. Wright, also born in Hill County, was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C.B. Wadsworth who came to Clay County and settled in Vashti in 1890 and moved to Bellevue in 1906.

There was no better known businessman in Bellevue than Mr. Wright. He started in January, 1909, in the mercantile business with his father, W.F. Wright and brother, L.S. Wright. Mr. and Mrs. Wright moved to Shannon, Texas, in 1913 and operated a branch of the Wright Firm. They came back to Bellevue in 1915 and were associated with the mercantile store until it was sold in 1924.

In 1925, he entered the drug business with Dr. C.J. Sherill and continued in the business until 1945. He also operated a hardware store and was active in ranching until he retired because of ill health in 1960.

The Wright family had acquired several thousand acres of land in Clay and Jack Counties. George Wright and L.S. Wright continued to operate the ranch interest for the family after the death of their father.

Mr. Wright was closely identified with civic affairs, serving as secretary-treasurer of the Bellevue School Board for fourteen years and as a member of the Bellevue City Council for twenty-two years.

Mr. and Mrs. Wright had two children, Margaret Louise and George William. Margaret Louise was married to W.E. (Billy) O'Neill, Jr., a native of Mineral Wells, who also served as a member of the Directors for the Nine-Man Board of the Clay County Pioneer Reunion. Both the Wright children were engaged in the ranching business until their deaths.

Mr. and Mrs. Wright have four grandchildren: Kay Wetsel, Charles H. (Buddy) O'Neill, Terry Lindsey and Kathy Hammack, and nine great-grandchildren.

Twenty-Ninth President - 1961



Lillie Mae (Snookie) Bevering
Pioneer Queen 1975

LIT



Ed Bevering
(1900-1977)

Ed Bevering was born December 10, 1900, in Charlie, Texas. He was the youngest son of August H. and Nellie (Hooker) Bevering.

Ed lived all his life in Charlie except when he was attending school in Henrietta. He married Lillie Mae (Snookie) Wolf December 22, 1927. Mrs. Bevering lived 1½ miles north of Charlie. They are the parents of three children: Louise Smith of Pampa, Texas, Charles Bevering and Joe Bevering of Charlie. He is survived by four grandchildren and two step-grandchildren.

Mr. and Mrs. Bevering have lived in Charlie all their lives. They lived in the home where Ed was born for 25 years. They moved ½ mile east to build a home where they lived until Ed's death in March, 1977. Mrs. Bevering still lives in the home.

Ed had a large farming and ranching operation in the Charlie Community near Red River. His cattle brand was LIT, the same as his father's, who registered the brand in Clay County in 1879. It is still being carried on by Charles and Joe.

Ed had an interest in the First National Bank of Henrietta. He was elected a director in 1950 and Chairman of the Board of Directors in 1970.

Ed was President of Pioneer Association in 1961. Mrs. Bevering served as Pioneer Queen in 1975.

Ed served four terms of three years each on the Nine-Man Board. He was one of the first nine men elected to serve on the board that was organized to build the present rodeo arena. He never missed the Reunion from the time it started 50 years ago until his death in 1977.

*In Memory of Our Husband and Father,
Mrs. Ed Bevering
Louise Charles Joe*

Thirtieth President - 1962



Roscoe Scott
(1885-1973)

Mr. and Mrs. S. E. Scott, parents of Roscoe, were attracted to the Clay County area because of the abundance of timber, rocks for fences and a plentiful supply of good water. They settled on 160 acres of land six miles southeast of Postoak on what was then called "Crooked Creek." That was where Roscoe was born on March 31, 1885. Ten years later the family moved into Clay County some three miles east of Postoak.

Roscoe married the former Miss Lena Burton, daughter of the late Dr. & Mrs. J. W. Burton, natives of Georgia and Alabama. Dr. Burton practiced medicine at Postoak for many years. The Scotts came to Texas from Arkansas in a wagon drawn by oxen. Those were the days when there were no fences this side of Red River and cotton had to be hauled to Fort Worth to market.

Roscoe attended Antiock School some three miles east of Postoak. Money was scarce, but little money was needed. Each family grew corn that could be made into cornmeal. Meat was produced at home. Butter and eggs were usually plentiful. The cash crop, cotton, had to be carried to Decatur to be ginned and neighbors took turns hauling the ginned cotton to the Fort Worth market.

Those were the times when a family could enjoy a game of "42" or "dominoes." Mrs. Scott says of her husband, "It wasn't everyone that could beat him."

The Scotts have six sons, eight grandchildren, twelve great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild. The sons are Burton, Buram, Leland, Ray, S.E. and Lowell.

The Scotts always enjoyed three square meals a day. They killed as many as five or six hogs each fall for winter. There was always fruit to make jams and jellies, cows for milk and chickens for eggs. Mrs. Scott has only purchased two dozen eggs during the more than 50 years of homemaking.

Roscoe served as Clay County Pioneer President in 1962.

*In Memory of Our Father
The Family of Roscoe Scott*

Thirty-First President — 1963



Dale Austin Burrus
(1893-1967)



Sallie (Irwin) Burrus
(Pioneer Queen — 1969)

A+

Dale Austin Burrus was born in 1893 in the Riverland Community, to John Austin and Rhoda Bell (Gibson). He was the oldest of five children. In 1891 John Burrus purchased a quarter section of land owned by his wife's parents, which is now in the possession of his heirs. As his cattle herd increased, he extended his dominions and was active in farming and ranching. As a young boy, Dale went on cattle drives with his father and Joe Douthitt.

Dale rode horseback four miles while attending Grade School at South Riverland. Troy Douthitt, Sr. and Dale would race their horses home after school. A neighbor who lived near the school, Mrs. Ellsworth, stopped the boys one day and sent notes home to their mothers telling on them for racing. The boys had no idea what was in the notes they took home. Dale rode a horse five miles to Petrolia High School and graduated from there in 1913. He had to come to Henrietta to take an examination, which was required then to graduate.

In 1915 Dale married Sallie (Irwin), who was a Pioneer Queen in 1969. They had two sons, Durward (Sonny) and Marvin (Cutter), who both now live in Wichita Falls.

Dale continued in the family farming and ranching and spent his entire life at the same place of residence in Clay County. He served on the Riverland School Board, the Board of Directors of the Clay County Hospital for a number of years, and on the nine-man Board of Directors 1957-1960.

*In Memory of Our Husband and Father,
Sallie, Sonny and Cutter*

Thirty-Second President - 1964



Andrew A. Smith
(1892-1970)

Andrew Smith was born December 30, 1892, in Denton County, Texas. He came to Clay County in 1907 with his parents, the J.W. Smiths. They settled in the Rocksprings Community where they were engaged in farming and stock raising.

In 1924 Andrew married Trellis Woodward, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C.A. Woodward, also of the Rocksprings Community. They lived in or near Henrietta for several years before building their home on the west edge of Henrietta. Trellis still lives there.

Born to Andrew and Trellis were two sons, Andrew, Jr. and Gene Robert. Gene died in 1953. Andrew, Jr. lives at Pampa, Texas, with his wife, Louise Bevering Smith. They have two daughters, now married, Janet Tregellas and Sue Fatheree.

Andrew served as Clay County Pioneer Association President in 1964 and passed away July, 1970.

Thirty-Third President - 1965



W.E. Lanham
(1891-1974)

W.E. Lanham, 1965 President of the Clay County Pioneer Association, was born July 15, 1891, in Dallas County and moved with his parents to Joy, in Clay County, in November, 1908. As a young man, W.E. worked on street paving in Dallas. The work was done with teams of horses or with picks and shovels. W.E. operated a "steam roller".

W.E. married Lota Lee Lumpkin on August 22, 1917. They were members of the Joy Baptist Church. In 1957 a parsonage was built with the donation from Mr. and Mrs. Lanham. Mr. Lanham served as a deacon many years.

Mr. Lanham served several terms as County Commissioner in Jack and Clay Counties. He operated cotton gins in Prospect, Postoak, Bluegrove, and Henrietta. He was Chairman of the Board that formed J.A.C. He also served on State of Texas R.E.A. Board and Brazos River Board. He retired from J.A.C. on January 1, 1964.

Thirty-fourth President - 1966



T.F. (Booster) Warren
(1898-1971)

Thomas Finis Warren was born November 20, 1898, in Palo Pinto County. He moved to Byers in 1912 in a covered wagon with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. J.R. Warren.

T. F., better known as Booster, lived in Byers the rest of his life. He passed away at the age of 72 in 1971.

When Booster was big enough to work, he did odd jobs around the Stine Ranch to supplement the family income. On Saturday afternoons, his foreman, the late Hence Harding, would let him off to come into town to cut hair. At the age of 17, he decided barbering was a pretty good trade, so in 1915, he began to work for Joe Balin. Soon after that he owned and operated his own barber shop in Byers for 56 years. He cut hair for some Byers pioneer families, as many as six generations. Some of these families included the Hendersons, Adams, Davis, Dunns, Herrins, Ligons, Parkers, Liggetts and Lyons. There were many four generation families.

On April 10, 1921, he married Pearl Shields, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. J. A. Shields, also of Byers. They had two daughters, Mary Lee Warren, who married Gordan L. Herrin of Byers and now lives in Pottsboro, Texas, on the Texhoma Lake, and Patsy Jane Warren, who married Bill Wilcoxen of Charlie, Texas, now living in Byers, Texas. Booster and Pearl had three grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Booster was a member of the Byers Masonic Lodge No. 1106 and a member of the First Baptist Church of Byers. He was the oldest living male member of the church at the time of his passing. He was Mayor of Byers for years and a walking chamber of commerce for his community.

In Memory of Our Father,
Patsy Wilcoxen and Mary Lee Herrin

Thirty-Fifth President - 1967



B.E. (Pete) Gill
(1891-1975)

B.E. (Pete) Gill, Clay County Pioneer President of 1967, was born in a log cabin on October 11, 1891, near Vashti, Texas. He was the oldest child of Mr. and Mrs. O.L. Gill. The log cabin in which Pete was born was later torn down, and the poles were used to erect the first rural telephone lines in that part of the county.

Pete married Grace Lipe on February 6, 1913. They had two children, a son, Fount Gill of Fort Worth, Texas, and a daughter, Mrs. G.W. (Helen) Butler, of near Henrietta, Texas, two grandchildren, Terry Butler and Michael Gill, and four great-grandchildren.

Pete moved to Buffalo Springs in 1924, where he lived until his death in 1975. He was engaged in ranching and ran a garage in Buffalo Springs for eighteen years.

*In Memory of Our Husband and Father,
Grace
Fount and Loree Gill
G.W. (Hopper) and Helen Butler*

Thirty-sixth President - 1968



W. H. (Ham) Douglass
(1898-)

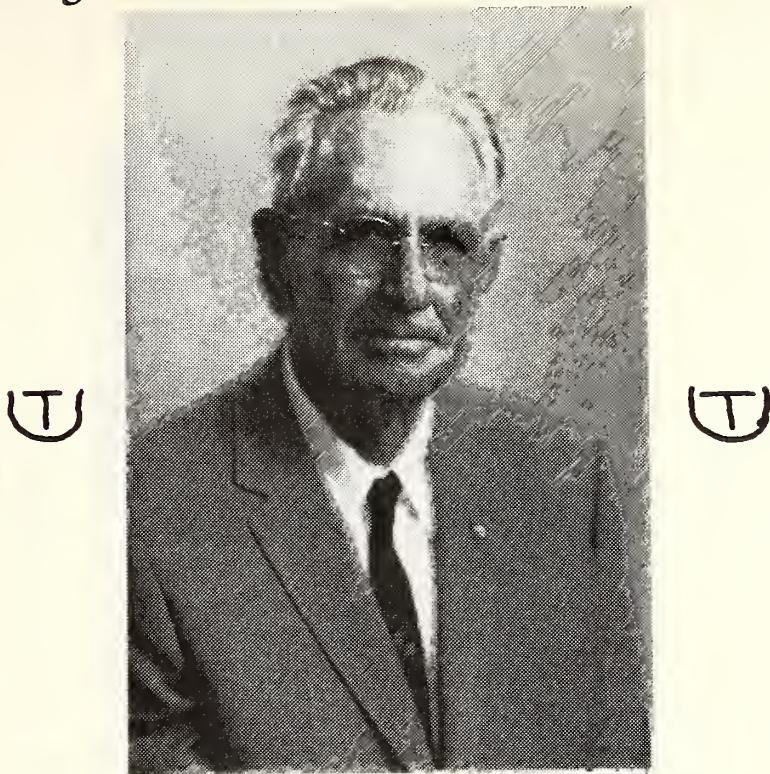
W. H. (Ham) Douglass was born in Bellevue, Texas, on February 22, 1898. His parents, the late Alexander Hamilton and Mattie Brown Douglass, came to Bellevue from Missouri in 1880 and bought a ranch west of Bellevue where they were engaged in ranching.

Ham attended Texas A&M from 1916 to 1919 and was on his way to officer training corps in the Air Force in Connecticut, when the Armistice was signed. He was given his discharge from the service soon after. Ham's six sisters were all college graduates.

Ham returned back to Bellevue and married Maud Edwards in 1927. He did ranch work with his father on the ranch west of Bellvue until 1932. Ham was elected tax assessor and Tax Assessor and Collector of Clay County for three terms. Then he was appointed County Auditor and served the county in that capacity for thirty years, retiring in 1978.

Ham and Maud have resided in Bellevue and Henrietta, Texas, all their married life and are members of the Methodist Church. Maud taught in the Clay County schools for thirty years. Ham served the Pioneer Association as President in 1968. He considers it an honor and a pleasure to have served and extends his congratulations to the Association for its 50 years of success.

Thirty-Seventh President — 1969



Ralph L. Shipp
(1893-1976)

Ralph L. Shipp was a native of Johnstown, Ohio, having been born in 1893. He left his hometown in 1914 for the adoptive state he grew to love. His destination was Petrolia, Texas. A job in the construction of the first compressor plant for Lone Star Gas Company was waiting for him. After completion of the facilities, he worked at all jobs, eventually earning the position of superintendent. "Skipper" (name affectionately given to him by his men) was the recipient of a safety award given at the International Gas Exposition in Tulsa. This award was given for 1,000,000 work hours with no accident by the men at the Petrolia plant. At retirement in 1958, after 40 years, he was district superintendent.

In October of 1922, he married Pansy Morgan. They lived in the company cottage built for them at the time of their marriage until his promotion to superintendent. Ralph and Pansy had three children. The children are Margie Shipp Hall, Betty Shipp Kerley, and Ralph L. Shipp, Jr. The Shipps had four granddaughters.

Mr. and Mrs. Shipp lived in the Petrolia area the majority of their lives. Upon his retirement, they built a home in Petrolia. Now he could enjoy ranching on the land he owned between Petrolia and Henrietta. His registered brand was a Horseshoe T.

Mr. Shipp was a member of the First United Methodist Church of Petrolia and Petrolia A.F. and A.M. Lodge No. 932. He served as president of the Petrolia School Board for more than 20 years and as president of the Clay County Pioneer Association in 1969. Until his death in 1976, Ralph was a man proud of his work, his employees, his home and family, and his state and country. And along with the others, he enjoyed the contented look of a white-faced cow.

In loving memory of our father and grandfather
Page 169

Thirty-eighth President - 1970



*Rogers Raymond Pope
(1888 - 1975)*

Rogers Raymond (R. R.) Pope was president of the Clay County Pioneers' Association in 1970. Mr. Pope was born in Waxahachie, Ellis County, Texas, on Sept. 28, 1888, and came to Henrietta with his parents, the late Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Pope in 1906.

In 1911 he went to the Philippine Islands for the Bureau of Education. He purchased land and supervised the building of schools. He also taught the people how to plant and harvest corn. Until this time their main crop had been rice. In 1913 he returned to the United States via "A Trip Around the World," and in April 15, 1915, was married to Miss Emma Pettey of the New London Community. They returned to the Islands where Mr. Pope was superintendent of schools in Copiz for five years.

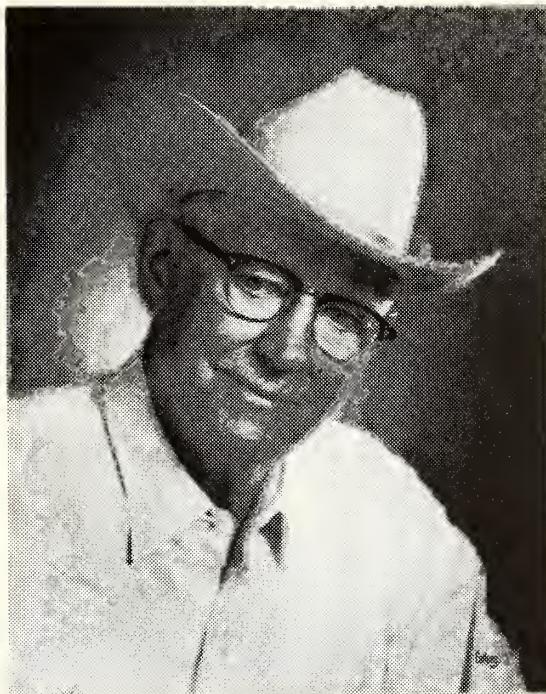
In 1929 Mr. Pope purchased his first Hereford cattle and until his death, he raised cows and taught kids. His widow, Mrs. Emma Pope and his son, Harold M., still have the Hereford herd.

Mr. Pope held a Master's degree from North Texas State University at Denton and attended the forerunner to Southern Methodist University, Dallas. He retired from teaching in 1962 and at that time he had taught in Clay County schools for forty-seven years. He taught at Halsell, Doss, Bluegrove, Fairview, Brown Midway and Henrietta.

Thirty-Ninth President — 1971

T-

T-



Kirk Edwards
(1896-)

A.B. (Kirk) Edwards, Jr. was born on December 27, 1896, in Antelope, Texas. His parents were the late Dr. and Mrs. A.B. (Bettie) Edwards, pioneer residents who moved to Clay County in 1888. Dr. Edwards was president of Pioneer Association in 1955.

Kirk, a longtime rancher, has lived in Clay County all his life. Kirk won numerous awards with his prize Hereford cattle.

His mother, Mrs. Bettie Edwards, passed away in 1950. In 1953 Dr. Edwards, in association with his two sons, Kirk and Bryant, established the Edwards Public Library in Henrietta, in her memory. Dr. Edwards passed away in 1957.

Kirk was president of the Clay County Pioneer Association in 1971.

Fortieth President - 1972

Z-

Y



H.C. (Buster) Zachry, Jr.
(1906-)

H.C. (Buster) Zachry, Jr. was born in Clay County, Texas, in 1906 to Henry C. and Dora Zachry. They lived in and around the Petrolia area. Buster attended school in Petrolia.

Buster married Clara White on December 24, 1935. They made their home on the farm and ranch that Buster was already operating, and he still continues to operate.

Buster was one of the first 9-Man Board members who helped to organize the present Pioneer Rodeo. He has served three terms on the board and one year as Chairman of the Board. During his terms on the board, Buster never missed a meeting, and he has attended every Reunion during his lifetime. Buster also has been present at every Work Day after the Reunion since it was organized.

Buster and Clara are members of the First Baptist Church in Petrolia. He has served on the Equalization Board and the Gin Board.

Buster has always supported every effort toward making the Clay County Pioneer Rodeo and Reunion a most pleasant time for all.

Forty-First President - 1973



Ernest A. Hoff
(1907-)

Ernest A. Hoff, the 1973 Clay County Centennial Pioneer President, was born January 24, 1907, to Ernest and Josephine (Berghoff) Hoff, among the first settlers in Windthorst. He has continued to live in Windthorst and Clay County all his life.

Ernest married Pauline Zotz in October, 1927. To this union were born four sons: Marvin, George, Alcuin, and Ernie. The family lived on a farm three miles southeast of Windthorst where he was a dairy and stock farmer. He and his sons have done custom hay baling and he often spoke of baling in four counties in one season.

Ernest always enjoyed the outdoors with fishing being his main hobby, followed closely by all kinds of hunting. He found pleasure in gardening where he shared many of his fresh fruits and vegetables with family and friends.

Mr. Hoff is a member of St. Mary's Catholic Church. He belongs to the 3rd and 4th Degree Knights of Columbus and the St. Josephs Society.

Ernest is now retired and is a resident of the Archer Nursing Home. Besides his four sons, he has 18 grandchildren and 20 great-grandchildren.

Forty-Second President - 1974



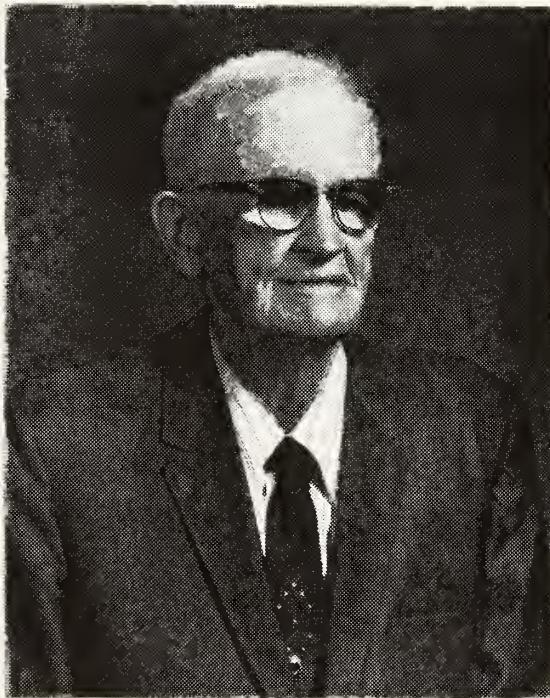
Herman W. Scheer
(1903-1975)

Herman W. Scheer was born on November 10, 1903, in Henrietta. His parents were Mr. and Mrs. C.S. (Mamie) Scheer, a pioneer Clay County family.

Herman was 1974 Clay County Pioneer Association president. He had been a member of the Nine-Man Board, which governs the annual Clay County reunion. He was a leader in First United Methodist Church, serving on the church's official board and building and finance committees. He was also a director of the Methodist Foundation.

Herman was a member of the Texas Cattle Raisers Association. He was a backer and promoter of 4-H Club and F.F.A. projects for Clay County youths.

Forty-Third President — 1975



L.Y. Herrin
(1887-1980)

Loftin Young Herrin was born in Charlie, Texas, on January 9, 1887. He was the youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. John Wiley Herrin who moved to Clay County from Tyler, Texas. The family was engaged in farming and ranching. His brand for his stock was 

Loftin Young Herrin married Miss Maudie Florence Wallace on Sunday, December 26, 1909, in Byers, Texas. He has never lived out of Clay County his entire life. Mr. Herrin began carrying the United States mail in 1918 and he continued until his retirement at the age of seventy.

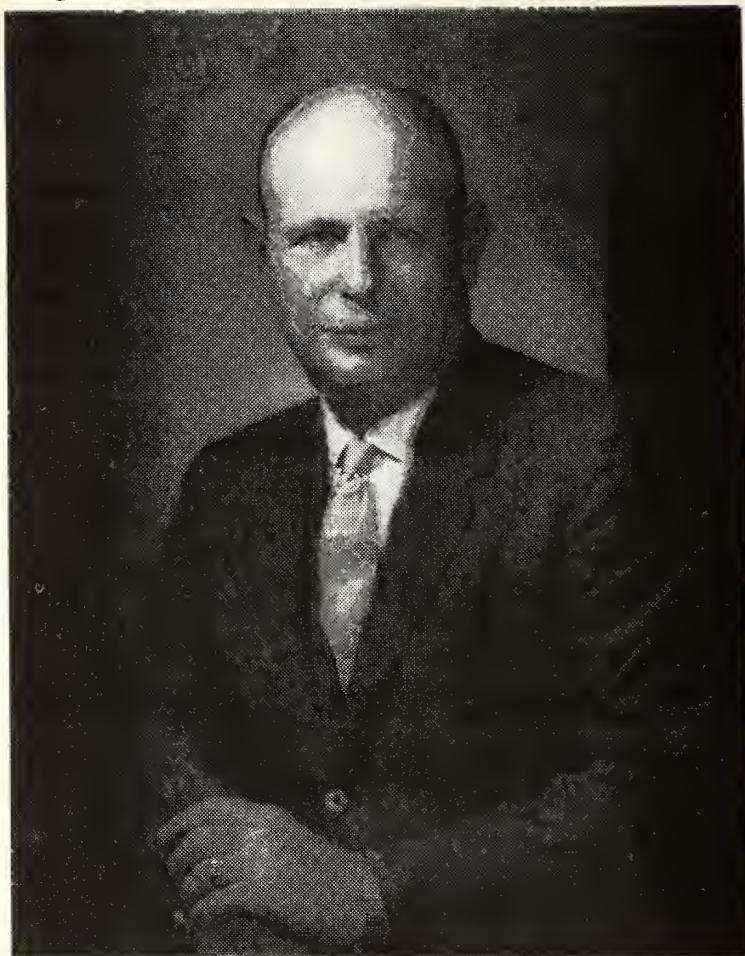
Mr. Herrin was a member of the United Methodist Church and held the office of Treasurer for a number of years. He devoted many hours overseeing the care of the Byers Riverside Cemetery.

Mr. Herrin served as President of Clay County Pioneer Association in 1975. He was the oldest native son for several years, the last year being 1979. Mr. and Mrs. L.Y. Herrin were honored the same year as being the oldest married couple at the Reunion.

The children of Loftin Young Herrin are: Mrs. J.C. (Icy) Thomas, Las Cruces, New Mexico; Lordon Loftin Herrin, Pottsboro, Texas; and Billy Paul Herrin, Fort Worth, Texas. He had six grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Mr. Herrin died January 28, 1980, at the Burmont Nursing Home in Henrietta, Texas.

Forty-Fourth President — 1976



Harry Wilson Scaling

(1913-)

Harry Wilson Scaling was born in Fort Worth, Texas, to Ada Burford Scaling and Geo. Wilson Scaling on May 16, 1913. He is the second of four boys, Burford the first son, Edgar the third and Richard the fourth son.

Harry's early schooling was at Arlington Heights in Fort Worth; then he graduated from Central High in Fort Worth. Harry went to Texas University and later came to the Scaling Ranch in Clay County in 1933.

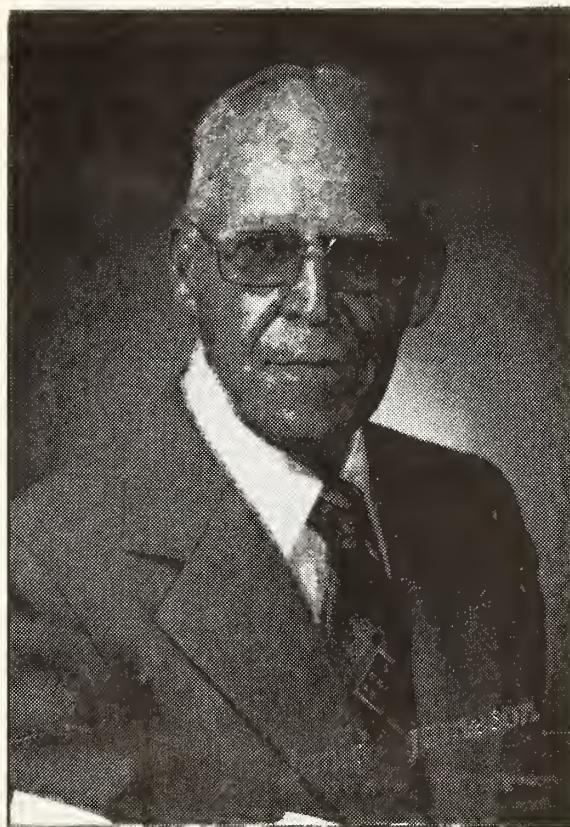
Harry married Marjorie Bevering in 1937. Marjorie was the daughter of John and Bertie Copher Bevering, both of whom preceded her in death. To this union were born three children: Wilson, Ann (deceased), and Sally, now Mrs. Clark Gray of Austin.

Later Harry married Margaret Benton Hornaday of Fordyce, Arkansas, in 1972.

Harry is a director of "Texas and Southwest Cattle Raisers Association," "Texas Livestock Marketing Association." He was a charter member of the first Nine-Man Board, and served seven years on this board. Harry served as President of the Pioneer Association in 1973. He also is a past member of Vistry of the Trinity Episcopal Church.

Wilson & Sally

Forty-Fifth President - 1977



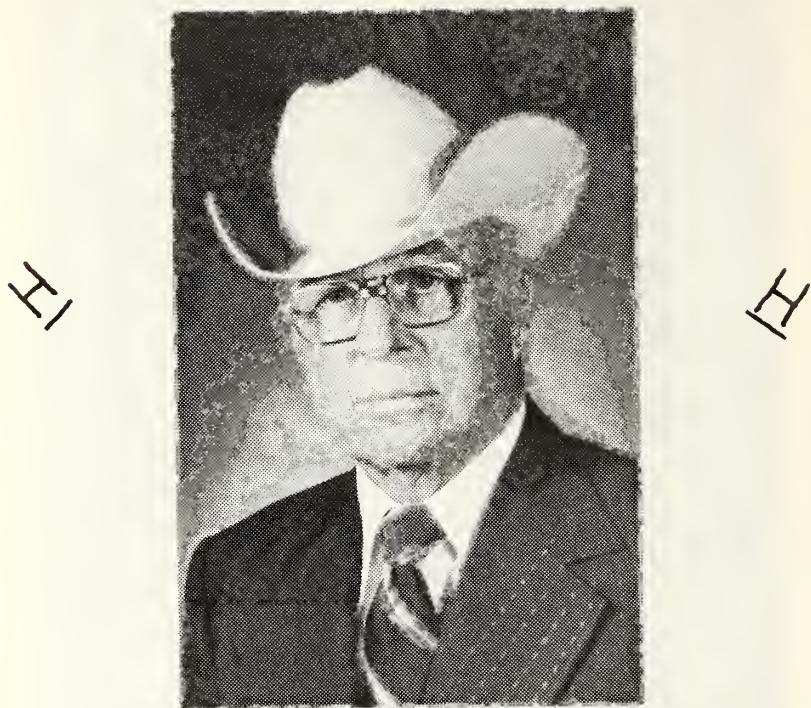
Lindon Garrison
(1905-)

Lindon Garrison was born February 13, 1905, in the Prairie Flower Community. He attended a one room school at Prairie Flower and a three room school at Willow Springs, where he had to walk three miles to school each day. Later his family moved to Henrietta and he attended Henrietta school for one year. One July 18, 1925, Lindon married the former Reba Jameson in Henrietta, Texas.

Lindon worked for the Bon-Ton Grocery and in December, 1939, he purchased and started operating Garrison's Food Store. He remembered farmers bringing in a can of cream and bucket of eggs in exchange for a supply of groceries. Candy was bought in bulk and was sold by the piece or pound. Vinegar was bought in barrels and sold for 25¢ a gallon and when the barrel was empty, it was sold for one dollar. In 1979 Lindon sold his business and retired.

Lindon and Reba had three children: Billy Wayne of Henrietta; Lindon Clyde of Waco; and Mary Frances Murphy of Irving. Lindon has eight grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. Lindon is a member of the First Christian Church, as was Reba until her death in 1972.

Forty-Sixth President — 1978



J.H. (Goat) Mayo
(1912-)

J.H. (Goat) Mayo was born on August 20, 1912, in the Rock Hill community, near Bowie in Montague County. He was the fourth of nine children and the oldest son of W.A. and Victoria (Stewart) Mayo.

The family moved to Clay County in 1912 where W.A. Mayo was employed by the H.B. Boddy ranch and later by the Lone Star Gas Company.

Goat married Dessie Inman in 1932 and they had two children, J.H. Jr. (Sonny) and Wendell, before her death in 1942. He married Lorraine Lyon in April, 1943 and had two sons, Ray and Guy. They also have nine grandchildren.

Mayo became involved in the rodeo producing business in 1938 with Bill Lyon, and continued the business with his sons until 1958 after Lyon's death in 1953. During this time they produced rodeos from Oklahoma City to Breckenridge and Santa Rosa, N.M. The company was also noted for having the best amateur stock on the road at the time.

He held shows in Henrietta from 1945 to 1958 in arenas that ranged from the current Texas Rickard Arena to Jimmy Heath's hog farm.

After retiring from the rodeo business, Mayo continued farming and ranching and went into partnership with Joe Parker in 1962 to form Clayco Cattle Company and Parker and Mayo Inc. mills.

Mayo served one term on the 9-Man-Board in 1954, and was chairman one year. He was elected Pioneer Association president in 1978.

Goat and Lorraine live in Petrolia where they are still active in the farming, ranching, and other businesses.

Forty-Seventh President - 1979

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J.T. Lyles
(1915-)

J.T. Lyles was born March 1, 1915, son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Marvin (Pearlena) Lyles, both natives of Clay County. Both his maternal and paternal grandparents came to the county more than a century ago to engage in ranching.

After graduating from Bellevue High School and attending John Tarleton College, Stephenville, Mr. Lyles was associated with his father in the cattle business until enlisting in the United States Army in March, 1942. He married Miss Helen Ashton of Burkburnett on May 17 of that year.

Following his discharge from the service in January, 1946, he entered the cattle business with a cousin, Lewis Brown, of Clay County. Together they operated B & L Cattle Company for thirty years without a written contract.

Mr. Lyles has been a member of the Clay County Pioneers' Association for more than a quarter of a century and has served three terms on the Nine-Man Board. Twice he was elected chairman. He has never missed a rodeo in Tex Rickard Memorial Arena. He and his wife, Helen, have served as Co-Chairmen of the reception committee for many years.

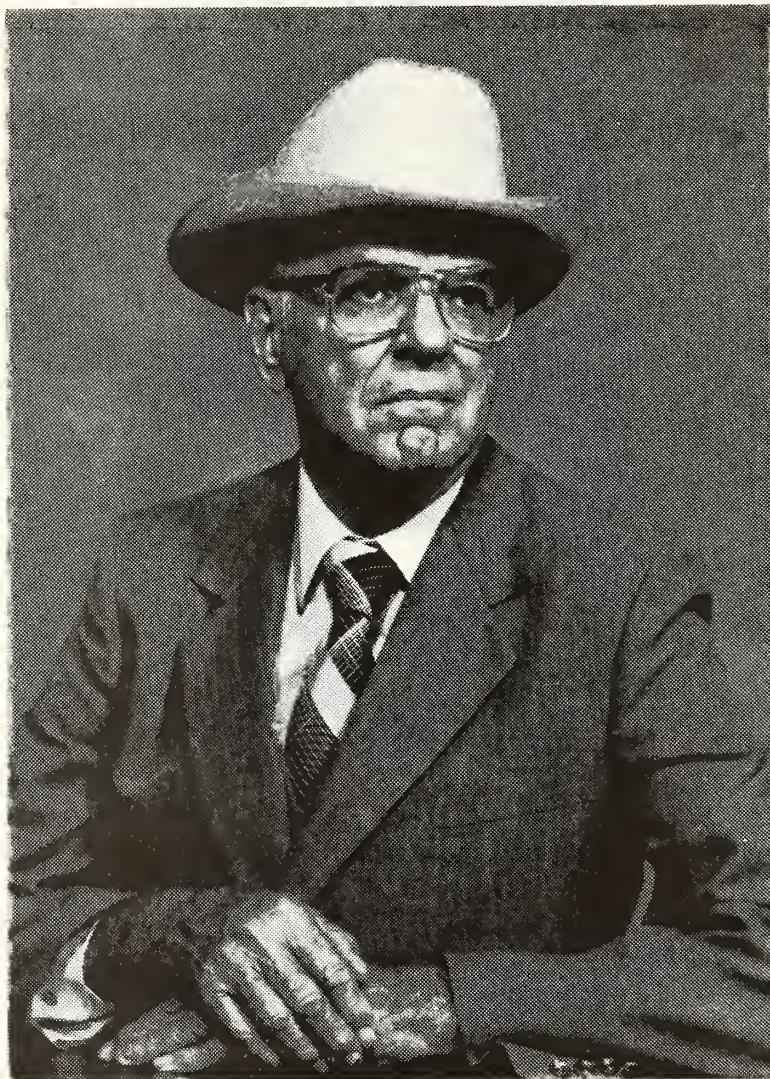
Mr. Lyles is president of the Federal Land Bank Association of Wichita Falls and a past chairman of the statewide eight-member stockholders committee. He is a member of Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association, National Cattlemen's Association, Texas Cattle Feeders Association, and the Wichita Club. He is a charter member of VFW Post 5401 and is a "Kentucky Colonel."

Mr. and Mrs. Lyles resided in the Neville Community until August, 1963, when they moved to Henrietta. He engages in farm and ranch operations in Clay and Wichita Counties.

Mr. Lyles has two sisters, Mrs. Ida Mae Mayfield and Mrs. Lillian Kerr, both of Henrietta.

*In Honor Of Our Uncle,
Karen, Sharon, and Carla Sue*

Forty-Eighth President - 1980



Edd Williams
(1906-)

Edd Williams was born near Buffalo Springs, Texas, the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Frank Williams. Edd graduated from Bellevue High School. He married Lois Thames, and they had two sons, Wray and Jerry, and three grandsons.

Edd served as County Commissioner of Precinct #4 for six years and served as Clay County Judge for eighteen years. He served as Mayor of Henrietta for three years. He is past Lieutenant Governor of the Kiwanis, Division 18, Texas and Oklahoma District.

Mr. Williams and his wife are active members of the First United Methodist Church, where he is past Chairman of the Administration Board. He is also past president of Henrietta and Clay County Chamber of Commerce and is presently employed as manager.

Edd served as Clay County Pioneer President in 1980.

Forty-ninth President - 1981



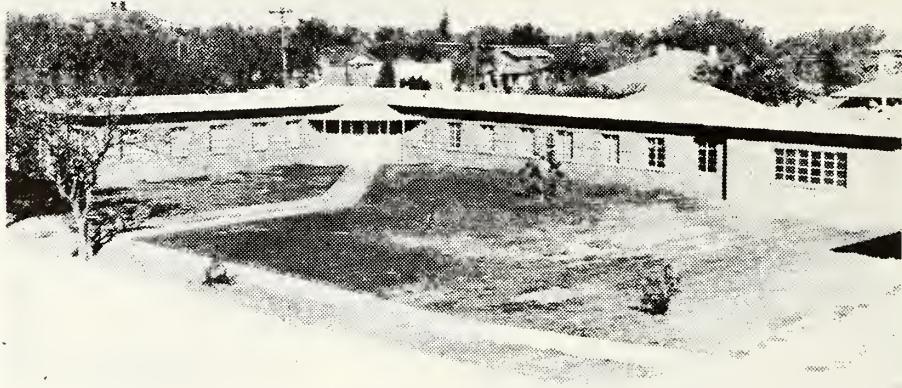
Sam Adams
(1911-)

I came to Clay County in 1922 with my parents, Mr. & Mrs. R. M. Adams. We were farmers and moved often so I went to school at Dale, Thornberry and Henrietta.

I married Vera M. Brown in 1939. We moved to Henrietta shortly after where I was in the bulldozer business until I retired about three years ago. We have two children, Danny Adams of North Carolina and Jan Carter of Dallas. We also have four grandchildren; Patricia Taylor of Wichita Falls, Amy and Chris Adams of Carrollton, and Tabitha Carter of Dallas.

I grubbed mesquite and leveled land to help start the Clay County Pioneer Association rodeo arena, buildings and parking area. I have helped in some capacity with each celebration since the start. I am proud of the progress the Pioneer Association has made and feel very honored to have been selected President for the 50th Clay County Pioneer Reunion and Rodeo.

Clay County Memorial Hospital — 1948



The Clay County Memorial Hospital was originally completed on November 1, 1948. There were 21 beds. Mrs. Milton donated the land to the county to build this hospital. The money to build this hospital and the next wing was from donations and government assistance. Over the years, many families have made generous donations to the hospital.

The first board of Directors were: Burford Scaling, Chairman, Paul Hawkins, Dale Burrus, Macon Boddy, Rex Davis and Pete Moore. Fred Wynn was on the first board, but passed away before the hospital was completed. Rex Davis replaced him.

Drs. Albert Greer, F.M. Patton, Robert Hurn and W.O. Martin were the first doctors. Mr. C.A. Tedder was the first administrator. Sarah Haney and Billie Jane (Yates) Eringer were R.N.s.

The north wing was added in 1956, increasing hospital to 36 beds. This cost about \$120,000.00.

In 1965 additions included new surgery, central supply and laundry departments. Also doctors' lounge, chapel and operating rooms remodeled to O.B. ward.

On June 23, 1975, ground breaking for new addition of approximately \$2,000,000.00, expanding hospital to a 50 bed facility. This was completed on May 1, 1977. It is designed to permit additional floors to be added if necessary as well as expansion of the first floor area.

Since 1948 other doctors have practiced in Henrietta and used the hospital. They are Drs. Lloyd Pickett, George Strickland, Leroy Schaffner, David Greer and Eddie Chandler.

Administrators of the hospital have been Mr. Tedder, Boogie Suddath, Donald Stuart (presently in Cairo, Egypt), Dale Arms (presently in Saudi Arabia), Kirk Brunson, and Patsy Leslie, who has been administrator since 1969.

Given in appreciation of all those who have supported the hospital throughout the years...Clay County Memorial Hospital

Albert Greer, M.D.



Albert Greer was born May 20, 1878, the sixth child of a family of eleven in Nacogdoches County, Texas. He was six years of age when his father died and twelve years old when his mother died. He attended public school in Nacogdoches County until age 18. The schools were open approximately three months in the summer and three months in the winter. Upon completion of high school, he attended the Center, Texas, Boarding School for two terms and obtained a first grade teaching certificate. He then taught at various schools in Shelby County. He worked at any job he could find in order to obtain money to attend medical school. Some of these jobs included driving an ox team for \$1.00 per day; log hauler; lumberjack; cotton picker and saw mill hand. He first attended Baylor Medical School and obtained a certificate to practice medicine and subsequently received his M.D. degree from Barnes Medical College, later Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, Missouri. He left for Newport, Texas, in Clay County in 1901. He rode a horse which had been given to him and carried all his belongings including twenty-five dollars of borrowed money and a pair of doctor's saddle bags.

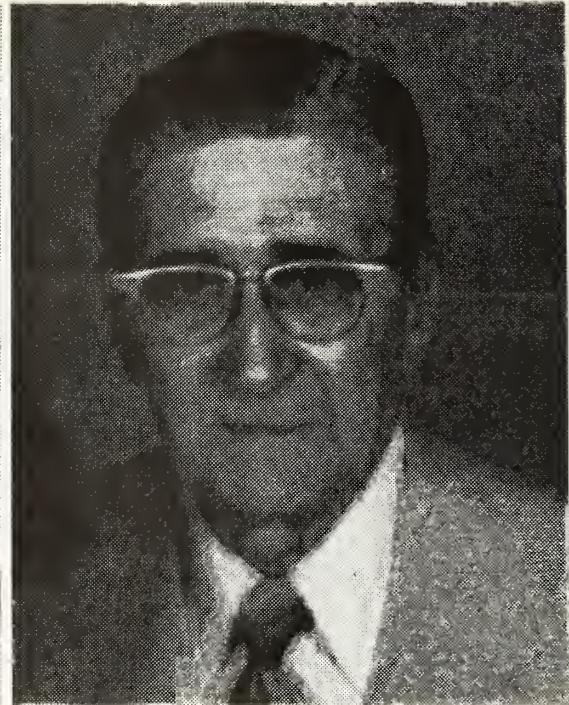
As was the custom, he spent his nights with residents along the way. He was not charged for lodging and would provide medical care in exchange. He arrived in Newport, a distance of some three hundred miles, with the same twenty-five dollars. The same day he arrived, he was called out on his first case. He subsequently received post graduate medical and surgical training from Tulane Medical School where he also taught anatomy. He married Miss Emma Jane Pickens, a member of a pioneer Clay County family and subsequently moved with Emma to Crosby County, Texas. They returned to Newport after eighteen months. They had one child, David Alphonzo. He and his family moved to Henrietta in 1914 where he lived and practiced until his death in 1950. His service to Clay County spanned the first half of the twentieth century. His practice covered the transition from doctor on horseback to horse and buggy doctor to automobile transportation; from home deliveries to hospital deliveries and from performing emergency appendectomies on kitchen tables to the modern asepsis of operating rooms. He died December 3, 1950, as a result of injuries received in an automobile accident while making a house call.

Dr. David Greer has followed in his grandfather's footsteps as David has practiced in Henrietta for the past eleven years.

Dr. Robert E. Hurn



1941



1981

Dr. Robert E. Hurn, son of Clay County Pioneers, Frank Hurn, 1956 Pioneer Assn. President, and Maud Cox Hurn, 1963 Pioneer Assn. Queen, was born January 17, 1912, in Hurnville, Texas. He has two brothers, Eugene and Richard, and two sisters, Rosemary and Margaret, who are both deceased. His early education was in the Hurnville Schools, later commuting with Eugene in a Model T to Henrietta where he graduated as Valedictorian in 1929. He received the BA degree in 1934 from the University of Texas and his Medical Degree in 1941 from University of Texas School of Medicine. On June 9, 1936, he married Margaret Elizabeth Graham. They have two children, Jim Hurn of Houston, and Mrs. Perry (Nancy) Lee, who resides at the Hurn homeplace in Hurnville, and three grandchildren, Margaret and Jennifer Hurn, and Amy Lee.

Dr. Hurn served in the U. S. Army Medical Corps on active duty from 1941-46 and the reserve corps from 1946-65, retiring with the rank of lieutenant colonel.

The Hurns moved back to Henrietta and opened his medical practice in 1947. He dedicated himself to his patients and his community. He served on the Henrietta ISD Board of Education from 1952-60 and was President from 1953-60. He is a member of First United Methodist Church, serving on the Board of Stewards 10 years. He is a Mason and past Worship Master, Past President of Kiwanis Club, member of Henrietta and Clay County Chamber of Commerce, American Legion, and VFW. He was Clay County Health Officer from 1950-60 and City Health Officer from 1968-70 and 1979-80.

He is past President of Clay, Montague, and Wise County Medical Society and during the 63rd Legislature, he was named honorary Capitol Physician. He is a member of Texas Medical Assn., American Medical Assn., Fellow Award of American Academy of Family Practice, Texas Society of Athletic Team Physicians, Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society, Who's Who in the South and Southwest, Personalities of the South 1971-72, "Two Thousand Men of Achievement" published by Melrose Press, London, a sustaining member of the Boy Scouts of America, and retiring Chief of Staff of Clay County Memorial Hospital.

Dr. Hurn has given 40 years of dedicated and honorable service to his patients, his community, and the medical profession. He formally retired January 1, 1981, only to begin a long wished for opportunity to restore his family home in Hurnville, which was named after his grandfather. He is enjoying doing all the painting, panelling, restoring, and remodeling himself, including building a new stand for the Hurnville School bell which stands at his home.

*In Honor of Our Father
Nancy & Jimmy*

Dr. Foster M. Patton



Dr. Foster M. Patton
(1878-1951)



Mrs. Nellie Patton

Dr. Foster M. Patton was born in Antelope in 1878. He attended college at T.C.U., then Baylor Medical School, and received his degree in 1915. Dr. Patton married Nellie Patton in 1911. Nellie ran a boarding house to send him through medical school. After medical school, Dr. Patton went into the Navy where he received the rank of Captain. He practiced in the Philippines part of this time.

After his discharge from the Navy, Dr. Patton came to Clay County, practicing in Shannon until 1925. From 1925 until 1928, he practiced in Bowie and helped build the first hospital there. He came back to Clay County in 1928, this time to Bluegrove. He stayed here until 1937.

Dr. Patton came to Henrietta in 1937 and practiced here until his death in 1951. His office was 400 block of E. Omega. Because of the confidence his patients had in him, they came to his bedside for treatment and consolation. Mrs. Nellie Patton passed away in 1946.

In his horse and buggy (later by car), Dr. Patton would travel to the people's homes to deliver babies and care for the sick. Even at times, when necessary, he would spend several days.

The Pattons' children are Foncie P. Cunliffe, Flora P. (Koethe) Murdock, and twins, Ed C. Patton and Pat C. Patton, deceased. They had six grandchildren. Dr. and Mrs. Patton were members of the Methodist Church.

The Gotfred Schaffner Family



In 1890 Daniel Schaffner bought 160 acres of land and settled in the Riverland community. This property has been passed down to heirs of Daniel Schaffner. There have been five generations of Schaffners living in Clay county these past 91 years. The property purchased in 1890 is where Gotfred Schaffner resides. He married Pauline Bitz in 1921 and they resided at this old settlement until her death in 1981. She was a former Pioneer Duchess in 1967. The Schaffners have been farmers and ranchers for five generations.

Shown in the picture is Gotfred and Pauline Schaffner. Their children are Leonard, Rueben, Leroy, Ella Mae, Gerta, Mary Lou, Daniel, Alfred, and Edwin, deceased.

The Leonard Schaffners farm and ranch NE of Henrietta. The Rueben Schaffners, of near Byers, are in business and ranches. Dr. and Mrs. Leroy Schaffner live in Henrietta. He has been in medical practice in Henrietta for 21 years. Ella Mae Schaffner Smith, Gerta Schaffner and Mary Lou Schaffner live in Wichita Falls, Texas. Daniel Schaffners live in Burkburnett. Alfred Schaffners live in Abilene, Texas.



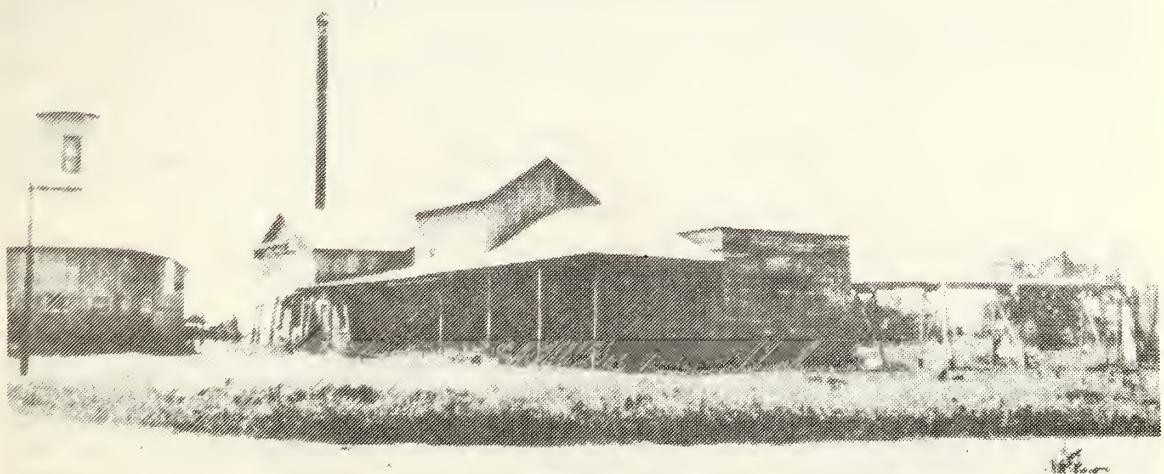
Warren O. Martin, D.D.S.

Warren O. Martin, D.D.S., started practicing dentistry in Henrietta in 1946 after having served as a dental officer in the Navy during World War II. He married Ina Myrle Cline in 1940 and they have two daughters, Mrs. William (Carolyn) Bieker, who is an elementary school teacher in McAllen, and Mrs. Donald (Shirley) Staver, who is a secondary teacher in the Diagonal, Iowa, school district. The Martins have six grandchildren.

Dr. Martin served on the school board for 15 years, and the city council for two years. He was president for the W.F. District Dental Society. He has fellowship in the International College of General Dentistry and the Academy of General Dentistry. He served four years on the Judicial Council for the Texas State Dental Society. He was awarded the Cooley Award for the most outstanding table clinic at the Texas State Dental meeting in 1960.

Mrs. Martin, (Myrle), has served as president for the W.F. District Dental Auxiliary, Henrietta Band Parents, Jr. Delphian Club and helped to organize the Campfire Girls Organization in Henrietta. Both Dr. and Mrs. Martin are active members in the Trinity Episcopal Church.

Powell Cotton Gin



The Powell Cotton Gin was owned and operated by Mabry B. and Blanche Powell. It was built in 1916 in Henrietta, Texas. At one time, there were nineteen cotton gins in Clay County. At the present time, there is only one.

History of the Joy United Methodist Church



Recorded in the Registry of Reverend W. M. Weaver, school house. Just organized in the year of our Lord 1881, under an oak tree just west of the log school house. Charter members - Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Wilson, Mr. and Mrs. Fletch Weaver, J. A. Evans, Reverend and Mrs. William M. Weaver. All faiths held union services in this school house. Methodist Episcopal Church South was the name given to this new church.

This community was first called Fannin Town. In about the year 1901 or 1902 the name was changed to Joy because the Postal Authorities wanted shorter names for their Post Offices. This tree still stands big and tall in the southwest corner of which is now the Joy Cemetery.

In 1891 A. S. Hicks deeded two acres of land to the Methodist Episcopal Church South. A small building was soon built in the center on the west side to worship in. Rev. G. C. Hardy was the pastor then.

In 1920 and 1921 the present church that we worship in today was built by Mr. Sam Gill in the southeast corner of the two acres. Rev. Ples Warren was pastor then. In 1923 the parsonage was built by Mr. Jack Lawrence in the southwest corner of the two acres. Rev. F. C. Adams was pastor then. A water well was soon dug north of the parsonage.

Mr. Mac Russel served as church superintendent from 1918 to 1925. Mr. Frank Andrews served from 1925 to 1963 and Mrs. Lillie Slaughter from 1963 until the present time. In 1968 the parsonage was sold and moved off the premises.

There were no Sunday School rooms so the four corners were curtained off for rooms. There would be about six classes with the men and ladies in the auditorium. Along in the 1920s the name was changed to Joy Methodist Church. Along in the 20s the church had what was called the Lords Acres. A farmer donated the land and members would till, plant and gather and sell the products and the proceeds would go to be used for the Lord's work. Through the years there were singing schools, Bible schools, camp meetings, W.S.C.S., M.Y.F., and quilting bees. The early settlers came to church by horseback, wagons and buggies. Later cars came into being such as the Model Ts, Star and the Overland. The first preachers were called Circuit Riders.

In 1973 with the strength, faith and courage of Mrs. E. Dan Pruett, the church was redone inside and out from top to bottom. Friends and neighbors donated their help. It was finished and on April 25, 1974 with Dr. Noel H. Bryant giving the dedicating message and Rev. John Dillard being the pastor.

This Day of our Lord April 12, 1981, the church is celebrating its 100th birthday. Dr. Earl Kifer giving the message and Rev. Mike Redd being the pastor.

Centennial Belles

1973



From left to right:

Mrs. G.E. (Willie) Lumpkin
Joy

Mrs. Frank (Marie) Koetter
Windthorst

Mrs. Lowell (Bertha) Reaves
Jolly

Mrs. Jack (Edith) Petro
Henrietta

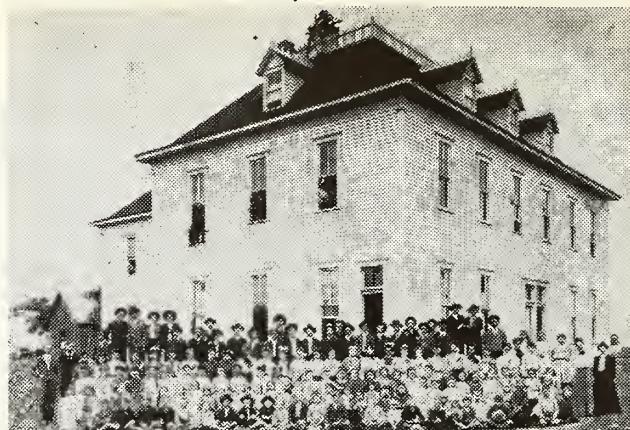
Miss Thelma Allie Thompson
Riverland

Mrs. Ruby Bunting Bonnie
Henrietta

Mrs. Claude (Amy) Dowdy
Charlie

Mrs. Lee (Annie) Bench
Bellevue
(Not Pictured - Deceased)

Bellevue Independent School



The above Bellevue School was built in the 1890s. First principal was L.E. Bain. It was blown away in the tornado on April 26, 1906.



The above picture was made in 1911. The principal was N.T. Gaines. This structure was torn down in 1922.



In 1922, the present structure was built. The Board of Trustees was Dr. L.F. Crook, President, J.F. Wetsel, Vice President, Kirk Hampton, Sec., W.F. Mount, M.J. Manning, Joe Dixon, & J.E. White.

In 1974, this school was remodeled and several additions were made, including a gymnasium and science lab. It is a modern facility with air-conditioning and carpeting. The School Board was Dean Sanders, President, Kenneth Liggett, Vice President, Paul Peyton, Sec., Hal Healer, T.A. Warner, & Raymond Gill.

Compliments of Bellevue ISD, Supt. Joe Thedford & Prin. Dan Webb, Board of Trustees: Hal Healer, President, David Denson, Vice President, Sally Allgood Ensey, Sec., Kenneth Liggett, Larry Wetsel, Ricky Jackson & James Cantrell.

The First Chivaree in Clay County

We were all a setting around the fire in the back end of Carl Worsham's private bank — just a bunch of old cowpunchers a setting there chewing, smoking, spittin' and talkin', talkin' mostly bout Dink Rickard — you-all up East knowed him as "TEX" but to us he was just Dink, and I might further say that way back yonder when he was a barefooted kid he always stayed so sunburned and tan the cowhands called him "Nigger" for short, but that was long before he growed up, 'cause when he got old enough to tote a pair of shootin' irons everybody called him Dink and lots of them cowhands who had personal dealings with him called him Mr. Dink.

Seems like after Dink left us and headed for the Yukon he never had time to play anymore. I noted by readin' a heap that Dink took on a serious attitude toward life after gettin' off the range. But we 'lowed as to how New York was calculated to make one more serious minded I know. I was powerful nervous myself when I visited Dink one time. I just couldn't see far enough; everybody and everything seemed to get in my way. Seemed like everybody was watching me everywhere I went, so I just was atellin' the boys maybe that was the reason some folks got the idea that our Dink was sorter sober minded.

Billie Myers who had been mostly listening, maybe because he was agreeing with what everybody had been saying or perhaps he was afraid to take his teeth off that old briar he was pullin' for fear it would run off suddenly, knocked the ashes out of his strong but aged pipe and sorter stretching says, "Well, boys, I seed Dink serious one time an' I don't reckon he ever hubbed a tougher layout in all his career than he did the night Tom Fields married Mae Cash."

We all drawed up closer and sanctioned our attentions by rollin' a new cigarette. "It was on the 18th of March in '87," he continued as he lifted his eyes ceilingward, seemingly to more accurately set the date. "Mae was about the prettiest gal in these parts in them days but her daddy was one of the few religious punchers out in the open pastures, and by gatlin' he was one of them kind that would back up his convictions with shot and powder too. Every cowhand on the range knew it, and how Tom Fields every had gall to go a-courtin' Mae we never figered out but he sho did and he must have done some powerful promotion for hiself for I was best man at his weddin' and I saw the whole performance myself.

Now that night Dink came over to Blue Grove. After hearin' of the weddin' he suggests that we get up a gang of the boys and go over to old man Cash's house and give the bride and groom a genuine old Chivaree. Well, we had to explain to most of the gang that it was customary and I told 'em I had been on many a party of that kind back in Virginia, but some of the boys were very dubious about just what old man Cash might think of such a proposition. Most of us were not quite sure that the old man even had an idea of what a Chivaree meant or what its friendly purpose was. We certainly didn't want our actions to be accepted by the old man as any evidence of mob violence cause we all knew him pretty well and we thought we knew just about what his actions and reactions would be. But Dink insisted and persuaded and finally about a dozen of us volunteered to follow his leadership. Fully armed with old pans and cans and buckets we headed off after Dink to old man Cash's house.

The Cash home stood off in the pasture from the big road and was almost hidden from view by heavy, thorny mesquite and wild native cactus. We tied our horse about 100 yards east of the house and stealthily moved on and surrounded the darkened house whose occupants, including the unsuspecting bride and groom, had long since retired.

As Dink gave the signal we burst forth in what was possibly the wildest delerium those virgin prairies had ever heard. As we were still living after the first sallie, we took new confidence in the promotion and as time went on the revel raged into pandemonium. Well, where we made our big mistake was we had forgotten that the horse correll was just south of the house about fifty yards and we had not been advised that the old man had been working a week rounding up about a hundred wild horses, and we didn't know that that correll was loaded to the brim with the wildest broncs in the South end of the county. Everything was going on nicely until crash went one wall of the correll and here come them stamped broomtails right out on us. It was dark as blazes and just as the horses broke lose old man Cash appeared at the door with a shot gun. It was every fellow for hisself and the Lord pity the ones left behind. And do you know Dink was worse off than any of us for he fell in a cactus bed and I bet he had a million thorns in him." "Yeh," I pulled him out of that cactus myself," joined in Louis Brown. "But wait a minute," says Tom Fields who had just sat and grinned up to this time. "Do you fellows know I was just aslippin' on my pants to come down and set 'em up when them horses stampeded?" "By George, it ain't too late now," says Billie, and the whole gang rose and confidently strode off to some oasis still fertile and uncontaminated by the 18th Amendment.

The children of Tom and Addie Fields were: Ernest, Henry, Louise, Will, Edgar and May. The grandchildren of Mr. and Mrs. Fields are: Kathryn Fields Leath; James (Jimmy) Fields (deceased); Louis Ferd Fields; William T. (Bill) Fields; Ernest Reed Fields; Maybelle Fields Green; Myra Lee Fields Hilgenfeld; W.C. Fields, Jr.; Sally Fields Pulley; William Albert Greer and Thomas David Greer.

Byers Ranch

1884



Samuel Byers Householder 1882-1934, Manager 1914-1934

The Byers Tree Ranch was established by Anthony Walter Byers and George Washington Byers, Sherman hardware merchants, whose family had come from Pennsylvania to Iowa in the 1950's, on approximately 31,000 acres in and near the Wichita River valley lying between Charlie on the west and Benvane on the east, the only settlements in north Clay County. The Fort Sill Road ran east of the Ranch and crossed Red River at a ferry near the northeast corner, below the mouth of the Wichita.

Early families in the area and on the Ranch in the 1880's and 1890's included the Grogans, Stines, Dunns, Hardings, Hendersons, Herrins and Blackstocks. The family of Sheridan Baker and Josephine Byers Householder - she was the sister of A. W. and G. W. Byers - came from Sherman to Charlie about 1887. Their children were Helen Louise (Mrs. C. F. House), Samuel Byers, Fred Walter, and Mary (Mrs. M. C. Tucker).

A. W. and Martha R. Byers had two sons, Reed W. and Ward W. who settled in Kansas City, Missouri. G. W. and Carrie R. Byers had no children.

After raising cattle and horses for about twenty years, and selling ten tracts for farms, in 1904 the Byers Brothers subdivided the Ranch into farm blocks and two townsites, Byers and Petrolia. The Wichita Valley Railroad was built from Wichita Falls to Byers in 1903-04 (it was extended to Waurika, Oklahoma, in 1922-23). The fertile farm and pasture land and the two new towns were rapidly settled after 1904. Oil and gas were discovered south of Petrolia in 1902 and 1905.

The original Ranch headquarters north of Byers and three tracts of pasture and farm land are still owned in the family, including the Jog Pasture southwest of Petrolia and the Householder Farm west of Byers. Mrs. Householder and the Ranch look forward to their centennial in 1984.

Emily Quick Householder, 1884- , who has lived at the ranch since April 1, 1914
Sam Baker and Johanna Winkler Householder Dorothy Householder Transen

Lucy W. and Alan R. Hinman

David Robert and Kay K. Transen

Johanna Mary and Katharine Emily

Richardson, Texas

Decatur, Georgia

Toni Carolyn Transen

Sam Householder Jr.

Dallas, Texas

New Orleans, Louisiana

Byers Tree Ranch

Johanna Mary Householder/Michael Copeman

Route 1

Toronto, Ontario

Byers, Texas 76357

July 14, 1981

William S. Culwell



Ida and Billy Culwell on their honeymoon in Colorado — 1907

William S. Culwell was born in Grayson County in 1879. His father, Leslie Culwell, was the son of one of the earliest Methodist preachers to come into Texas. He had the counties of Collin, Dallas and Cook with some intervening territory as his circuit. It was necessary to preach almost every day to get around once a month.

Leslie Culwell settled near Cambridge in about 1882. In 1893 the Culwells drove 200 head of cows to a ranch they had purchased near Crosbyton. Since they were some of the first people to go over the cap rock, there were no schools. Billy was fourteen years old. They left him with the W.B. Worsham family so that he could finish school in Henrietta. He lived with the Worshams until he married.

In 1898 when the Worsham Bank was established, he joined the staff. He served as cashier many years until the bank closed in 1933.

Billy married Ida Snearly. They had three children: Billy Mae Culwell (Mrs. J.D. Avis) of Henrietta, Leslie B. Culwell of Midland, and Frances Culwell (Mrs. Loy P. Fry) deceased.

Excerpts from the account of their wedding — from "The Independent":

"Two of the most popular young folks, Will Culwell and Miss Ida Snearly, were married in the parlor of the St. Elmo Hotel, the home of the bride, at noon Wednesday.

To the strains of Mendelsohn's Wedding March rendered by Miss Bernice Schlosberg, the ribbon bearers, the Misses Agnes Hanagan, Maud McKeehan, Don Ikard and Ruby Grogan, entered the parlor, followed by the bridal party, led by the Matron of Honor, Mrs. K.N. Hapgood. The bride was supported on the arm of her father who gave her in marriage. The bridesmaids were her sister, Miss May, and her cousin, Miss Grace Snearly. The groom entered with K.N. Hapgood, Percy Neville and Roy Snearly acting as best men.

The cab failed to appear at the appointed time for the trip to the 1:26 Denver north, but the boys had this fixed. Jerome B. Dale was there with his large touring car and fell in line with Henrietta's world wide Sousa's band.

The contracting parties' wish for a quiet wedding was hardly realized and that was some band, too. Members of the W O W Band were all busy, but the boys borrowed the instruments, chartered the baggage truck and did surprisingly well for volume.

According to the plot, the bridal automobile's speed apparatus was set on slow clutch so as not to run away from the music. There was some dispute as to the air played enroute to the depot, some claiming it to have been a Medley individualissimo, but it was the Wedding March Bedlamimus by Jassackovitch. By unanimous agreement, however, it was fetchin!

The band boys who acquitted themselves so nicely were K.N. Hapgood, S.A. Searight, Louis Schlosberg, Will Johnson, Geo. Stuart, Walter Koethe, Roy Snearly, Walter Graner, W.H. Myers, Chas. Carrow, Irving Corlett, Carl Green and Eph. Weaver. Bill Johnson suggested that the name of the band be changed from Sousa's Band to the Sousers. Band practice at the next wedding."

The Michael Derzapf Family



Michael Derzapf
(1858-1916)

Johanna (Riffel) Derzapf
(1865-1937)

Michael Derzapf and Johanna Riffel were married in a church in a village near Odessa, Russia, on February 10, 1881. Michael Derzapf's parents were Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Derzapf.

The Derzapfs and Riffels lived in a German Settlement of Franzfeld, Russia, near the Black Sea. Sometimes this sea would swell and the water would spread over all the gardens which were planted around it. After the water receded, the vegetables would grow and produce in abundance. The water was clear and the fish were plentiful and very good to eat. Some of the fish would get caught among the plants and weeds when the water receded, so the people could catch them with their hands. During the winter, the sea would freeze. This would make the traveling distance to Odessa shorter as they could cross over the ice. Sometimes they saw large sea animals playing on the ice.

Their farm was several miles out from the village. They would take the horses out in the morning and work all day on the farm, returning to their home in the evening. All the houses in this settlement were made of adobe and straw. Every spring everyone would whitewash their houses with a lime mixture. The walls were about two feet thick. The Lobo wolf was in this area and were dangerous when hungry.

Michael and Johanna sailed from Russia on May 10, 1892, and remained in New York City for a short time, then made their home in South Dakota for two years. In September, 1894, they moved to Henrietta, Texas.

Two of their twelve children died in Russia, the oldest child and the third child. The other ten children were Elizabeth, Enos, Frances, Jacob, Frank, Anton, Rose, Mike, Anna and Magdalena. Elizabeth and Enos were born in Russia. Frances was born in South Dakota and the other seven were born in Henrietta, Texas.

Essler Family



Joseph & Rosie Essler

Joseph Essler, Jr., was born in Niedorf, Austria, third child of Joseph and Antonia Essler on September 17, 1889. With his parents and two sisters, he came to the United States when he was one year old. They settled in the Cameron and Winters area of Texas where they did tenant farming. Then in 1912 they moved to the Scotland area before the town was built. Joe did cowhandwork in this area and Coleman, Texas.

Joe married Rosie Hanke, who was born November 24, 1903. She was the fifth child of Anna and Adolph Hanke. Joe and Rosie were married in Coleman, Texas, January 1923. They took care of the farming on his father's land, one mile east of Scotland, where their first two children were born. Then they purchased land three miles east of Scotland where they farmed and ran a dairy until they sold the farm to their youngest son, George, who still resides on the home place.

To this union were born eleven children:

Lydia Keyes — Wichita Falls, Texas

Robert Essler — Arlington, Texas

Janet Garves — Georgetown, South Carolina

Elnore Smith — Tacoma, Washington

Bernice Essler — (deceased)

Ida Mae Weller — Vrinnia, Virginia

William Essler — Mesquite, Texas

Donald Essler — Windthorst, Texas

George Essler — Scotland, Texas

Rosalee Hager — Irving, Texas

Jo Ann Walton — Alief, Texas

31 Grandchildren 16 Great-Grandchildren.

Joe passed away on February 2, 1970 and Rosie followed him in death on November 30, 1977.

Troy Douthitt Sr.



Troy Douthitt was born September 19, 1894, near Riverland, Texas, the oldest of three sons born to Joseph White Douthitt and Katherine Christian Douthitt. Troy began his education at Riverland School by riding a horse from the ranch headquarters each day to the school. Later he attended school in Ryan, Oklahoma, and then Henrietta High School from which he graduated. He attended Baylor University, at Waco, Texas. In 1915 Troy went to New Mexico, where he filed a homestead claim on a section of government land. On January 9, 1918, he married Nannye Clark of Wichita Falls, Texas. His father requested that he return to the ranch in Clay

— Continued —

Troy Douthitt

County and abandon his New Mexico homestead claim, which he did. That year the partnership, J.W. Douthitt & Son, was founded. At that time Philip Detrick was foreman for the partnership, having lived with the Douthitt family since he was fourteen years of age. That residency continued until the late 1920's. Troy had two younger brothers, Ambrose, eleven years younger than Troy, and Cratus, thirteen years younger than Troy. Their mother, Katie Douthitt, spent the first years of the younger boys' schooling living in Petrolia, Texas, and returned to the ranch during the week-ends. Later, J.W. Douthitt bought the Henrietta home of his brother, Tack Douthitt, and the younger boys went to school in Henrietta. Both Ambrose and Cratus later attended the University of Texas in Austin. The younger, Cratus, was killed in an airplane crash in Wichita Falls, Texas, in 1930. Shortly thereafter, Ambrose returned home from college and the partnership was changed to J.W. Douthitt & Sons. After J.W. Douthitt's death, the partnership was continued with Katie Douthitt as a partner with her two sons, Troy and Ambrose. That partnership was dissolved in 1948 and the ranch properties were divided. Ambrose Douthitt died in 1950 and is survived by his two sons, Frank, now District Judge of the 97th District of Texas, and Cratus who operates their father's part of the ranch properties. Troy's interest in the ranch properties was sold in 1972, prior to his death on February 4, 1975.

During his lifetime, in addition to Troy's ranching activities, he pursued many altruistic and community activities. Troy worked with the Federal Loan Programs during the Great Depression years and when Rural Electrification was proposed by President Roosevelt, Troy diligently supported that innovation and helped to implement the program in the northern half of Clay County. He served on the School Board for the Henrietta Independent School District for fifteen years and at the time of his retirement from that Board had served as President for several years. During his tenure on the Board, he and other forward thinking members of that Board implemented a program of consolidation by which the Henrietta Independent School District was enlarged by absorbing many rural school districts in Clay County.

Troy Douthitt is survived by his son, Troy Douthitt, Jr., born in 1919 in Henrietta, Texas, and two daughters, Joanne, born in 1927, and Jeannine, born in 1933. He had five grandchildren — Troy Douthitt, III, (deceased), Kim Hill, Shayne Hill, Donna Hill, and Nan Byrne.

He was a member of the First Methodist Church of Henrietta, the Masonic Lodge in Henrietta and the Maskat Shrine Temple in Wichita Falls, Texas. He died February 4, 1975, in Clay County Memorial Hospital and is buried in the family plot in Hope Cemetery, Henrietta.

W.B. (Lou) Frey and Lydia (Slack) Frey

He was born in South Carolina in 1856 and came to Clay County from Louisiana in 1872 at the age of 16. She was born in Iowa in 1859 and came to Clay County in 1874 at the age of 15. They married in 1879. To this union, six children were born: Lea Zachry, W.C. (Bud) Frey, Carrie Lechner, Verdie Hill of Henrietta, Dollie Solomon and Sadie Kuchenbaker of Dallas. Lea, W.C. (Bud) and Carrie are deceased.

Mr. and Mrs. Frey bought a farm and ranch in North Clay County in the early 1880s where they ran Hereford cattle. Mr. Frey had this hexagonal barn built in the 1890s and it still stands on the Frey Ranch, though deteriorating. They had to build six sides so they could use short lumber. Three houses were torn down to get lumber for the huge barn, which has a steep roof towering about 40 feet. Large double doors are built on each end so a hay wagon could get in. Several rows of bois d'arc trees that were planted before barbed wire was invented still stand near the barn.

Once when Mr. Frey was coming in alone from the buffalo range, some Indians came up over the hill, chasing a buffalo. Mr. Frey, thinking he would befriend them, tried to turn the buffalo into them so they could kill it. When he rode in front of the buffalo, it charged, killing Mr. Frey's horse and wounding him severely. He was unconscious for about three weeks. When he regained consciousness, the Indians were having what he thought was a war dance; but they were rejoicing his recovery. After regaining his strength for several days, he slipped away in the night. The Indians had taken good care of him, but had cut his new saddle into strips.

Mr. Frey met his death in 1925 by his horse falling on him. Mrs. Frey passed away in 1953.



W.C. (Bud) Frey



Bud was born on May 24, 1884, in Clay County. He was a well known cattleman and horseman. Bud raised Hereford cattle and Quarter horses. He ranned in Archer, Clay, Reagan and Wichita counties. He trailed cattle from his ranch in Reagan County, 90 miles west of San Angelo, to 10 miles north of Henrietta. His son, Amel Frey, made the trips horseback with him.

This is a picture of Bud that was made about 1919 or 1920 on his place on Turkey Creek which is about 4 miles north of Henrietta.

Bud passed away on May 8, 1973.

Thomas Cleveland Hammonds Family



Thomas Cleveland & Birdie Ann Hammonds
Lessie, Vernon & Jack

Thomas Cleveland Hammonds was born in Lexington, Alabama, February 9, 1885. He came to Texas in 1900 and married Birdie Ann Truitt in 1906. Birdie was born in Morris County, Texas, March 10, 1889.

They moved to the family farm southeast of Bluegrove in Clay County January 4, 1916, before the days of cars, tractors, and good roads. In addition to farming and other related farm activities, Thomas C. Hammonds was pastor of the Primitive Baptist Church at Joy and other locations for thirty-five years.

T. C. and Birdie reared and educated ten children: Lessie (Mrs. Hoyt Berman) Taylor, Fort Worth; Vernon (Adelle Lyles) Hammonds, Wichita Falls; Jack J. (Muriel Bailey, Blanket, Texas) Hammonds, Henrietta; Ettie Mae (Mrs. Weldon "Doodle") Brooks, Tucson, Arizona; Mildred (Mrs. William) VanWyk, Fort Worth; Rhoda (Mrs. Paul) Brooks, deceased; Birdie (Mrs. Lloyd) Browning, Irving; Larue (Mrs. George) Scott, Dallas; Hattie Fae (Mrs. Nathan) Holder, Dallas; and Thomas C. (Barbara) Hammonds, Jr., Dallas.

The family retired from the farm and moved to Denton in 1943. Jack and Muriel continued the farming operations and now reside in Henrietta.

Thomas Cleveland died in 1952 and Birdie Ann moved to Irving to be closer to her children. She died September 19, 1978. They both are buried in Riverside Cemetery in Denton. They leave behind nine living children, twenty-four grandchildren, thirty-nine great-grandchildren, and one great-great-granddaughter.

*In Memory of Our Mother and Father,
The Vernon Hammonds*

John V. Lyles



John & Edith Lyles

John V. Lyles, son of John Thomas and Alice Lyles, was born August 22, 1889, in Clay County just west of the Midway school site, where his family had settled in 1885.

He attended Bellevue High School and Texas A&M College, graduating in 1913 with a B.S. Degree in Civil Engineering. An excerpt from his college annual states: "Lyles is man of large stature, strong muscles and a soft warm heart. He is the kind of fellow which every man wants for a friend. He also has a trait of character which gains for him whatever he sets his heart upon. He thought that he would like to be a football man and with great success he accomplished this and more. He became a hero of the Gridiron."

Upon graduation he served as an engineer in the construction of the Panama Canal. He returned to Clay County in 1914 and married Edith Bloyd Gilbert who was born August 7, 1895, the daughter of Mabel R. Gilbert and Pearl (Hicks) Gilbert of Joy on July 12, 1914. He was a life long resident of Clay County where he taught school, farmed and ranched, served six years as County Judge and completed several engineering projects for the State and Federal governments. He worked until ten days before his death occurred on May 25, 1953.

After the death of her husband, Edith traveled to Berlin, Germany and lived with her daughter, Adelle, and family. Her great interest in people and their customs led her to visit many countries throughout Europe. She followed her husband in death on November 7, 1955. Both John and Edith are buried in Hope Cemetery.

John V. and Edith had four children: Adelle, who married Vernon Hammonds, currently residing in Wichita Falls; John Jr., who married Emma Gene Blount, both deceased; Thrazyr, who married Charles Mayfield, and resides west of Buffalo Springs; and Don, who married Ella Mae Reeves and resides in Wichita Falls.

There are twelve grandchildren and fourteen great-grandchildren.

*In Memory of Our Mother and Father,
The Vernon Hammonds — The Don Lyles*

The Homer Henderson Family



The Henderson family have many fond memories of the time spent and the love shared on this farm and in this house. Homer Henderson has lived in this house for 73 of his 80 years. His parents, Charlie and Ella Henderson, moved to Byers, Texas, from Roswell, Ga., in December, 1906. The Benvenue School house was blown down by a tornado the last day of school that school term. Charlie bought the lumber left of the school building and used it in building his home which he completed in 1907. When he and his wife, Ella, with the younger children moved to town, the two older boys, Bruce and Homer, remained on the farm. Homer married Mary Lou Holcom on October 23, 1921. They have made their home in this same house since that date which will be 60 years this October, 1981. They have two children, a son, Billy Lee, and a daughter, Dorothy Faye Graves, four grandchildren, and four great grandchildren. They all love to spend time on the farm.

Charlie's father, E.M. Henderson, sold his fabric mill in Roswell, Ga., and he and two of his sons came to Texas and bought land in the Byers area in 1897. When Charlie came to Texas, he bought land from his father. The 300 acres on which this house is located has been in the Henderson family since 1897.

*In Honor of My Parents, Homer and Mary Lou Henderson
Dorothy Faye Graves
Owner
Graves Insurance Agency*

Carl Klein

July 21, 1894 - Nov. 7, 1970



In 1872, Ludwig Klein left Hessedamstadt, now called Durmstadt, Germany, headed for America. After 21 days on a boat he landed in New York City. He later sought foundry work making plows in South Bend, Indiana.

Ludwig saved his money and sent home for his fiancee, Barbara Knoph (Knoph means "button" in German) who came to join him in America.

They had three children before arriving in Sherman or Gaineville in 1877. Later by wagon, they came to Clay County and settled near the New London community. For eight years they lived on different places until moving to South Clay County on the John Graves ranch where they lived for 6 years.

They purchased 180 acres of land in 1890-1891 north of Clay County in the Ikard Community. Ludwig Klein died Feb. 8, 1919, and Barbara died Sept. 23, 1930.

Eleven of their 14 children were born in Clay County. All are deceased now.

Carl, their next to the youngest, was born July 21, 1894 and moved about one mile south of the old home place. He married Clyde Marie Perkins on Nov. 22, 1921. To this union were born 12 children; Katherine Bullinger, Walter Ludwig Klein (deceased), Carl Klein, Jr., Genieve Pittman, Margaret Watson, Pauline Caswell, infant boy Klein (deceased), Clarence Klein, Lois Klein (deceased), Edna Mae Klein, Frances Essler, and Carla Whitaker.

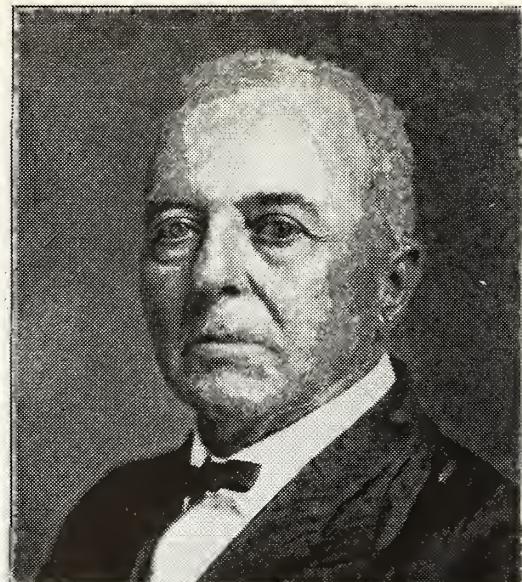
He purchased other tracts of land in the same area and was engaged in the farming and ranch business before his death on Nov. 7, 1970 at the age of 76.

In Loving Memory of Our Dad, Carl

W.H. Myers



Mrs. W.H. (Viola) Myers



W.H. (Billy) Myers

In 1878 the Lone Star State was more or less a wilderness, a land untried, but W.H. (Billy) Myers saw in it a land of opportunity. He had just finished his education by graduating from the High School of Bridgewater, Va., and with all the enthusiasm of youth confronting the unknown adventure of life, Billy set forth to the promised land. He found the site he sought in Clay County, Texas. He began his battle for fortune by engaging in the cattle business. He was active in the cattle business continuously for forty years, giving special attention to breeding of Herefords. His livestock were prize-winners wherever they appeared, making him one of the best known cattlemen in the State of Texas.

Billy Myers was born in Rockingham County, Virginia, on October 23, 1853. He was the son of Rudolph and Eveline Myers. One June 13, 1918, he married Mrs. Viola Newboro, who was Miss Viola Hill. Mrs. Myers was a native of Arkansas, but was residing in Denison prior to her marriage.

Mr. Myers was a public spirited citizen, contributing to the development of Clay County as well as to the growth of the State. He aided in civilizing and domesticating Clay County, contributed to erection of schools and churches. He was active in oil industry and was President of the Palmer Oil Co.

The picture below was taken in front of Mrs. Ohiem's house in Henrietta. Far left is Grandmother Oheim (Anna Kathryn Moffet's grandmother) with Mr. and Mrs. Ed Fields and show bull Beau-H Twelfth, owned by W.H. Myers.

*In Memory of Uncle Billy and Viola,
Ruth Gray*



Wynn Family



Leonard Athens Wynn
(1870-1934)

Maggie Ada Jamison Wynn
(1872-1959)

LEONARD ATHENS WYNN was born in Fannin County, Texas, February 21, 1870, coming to Clay County in the late 1800's. As a young man he drove the stage from Henrietta to Graham by the way of "Old Loop," which was located on the Wynn ranch west of Joy. The land presently belongs to a granddaughter, Maxine Wynn Gray.

LEONARD WYNN married MAGGIE ADA JAMISON of Normandy, Tennessee, on February 22, 1890, at Bluegrove, Texas, and they resided at "Old Loop." Old Loop was later moved to Joy where there was only one store and Post Office.

LEONARD and MAGGIE WYNN had four children, LOVIE BARTON, born 1892, who lives in Austin, Texas, FRED, born 1894-1951, CLAUDE 1897-1971, and MILLIE STREET, 1904-1970.

LEONARD WYNN passed away September 7, 1934, and MAGGIE JAMISON WYNN passed away February 17, 1959.

The Wynn Ranch, Joy, Texas, has been a continuous family ranching operation since 1890. BILLY DAN WYNN and MAXINE WYNN GRAY, grandchildren, own and operate the ranch today. Mr. and Mrs. BILLY DAN WYNN live on the ranch. BILLY DAN is currently serving as CHAIRMAN of the 9-Man Board of the Clay County Pioneer Association.

The Junior Delphian Club



Blooming Idiots

The Jr. Delphian Club salutes the Clay County Pioneers and friends on their Golden Anniversary.

The Jr. Delphian Club was organized in 1937. Charter members were: Miss Ruth Bragg, Lois Lefevre, Artelle Looney, Margaret Ruth Lowe, Ruby Willis, Ruth Worthington, Mrs. J. A. Beaty, Jim Koethe, Kenneth Slagle, and Wayne Lefevre.

A committee from the Alpha Delphian Club was the organizers. Members were Mrs. Vincent Stine, Bert Schwend, Walter Koethe, and Wayne Lefevre.

Judge Vincent Stine helped draft the original constitution and by-laws. The course of study came through the mail from the University at Chappel Hill, North Carolina or the University of Texas at Austin.

For a number of years we were active in General Federation and the Clay County Federation.

Time has wrought a great many changes. There is still the emphasis on learning. We point with pride our active roll in church involvement, education scholarship, library assistance, student excellence awards, Red Cross, 4-H and summer youth programs, and Pioneer Reunions ("Who can forget the Blooming Idiots?")

Our present membership is composed of twenty-four active members, three associate and life members of twenty years good standing and honorary members.

We are proud of our organization and the community in which we live.

Mrs. Wayne Lefevre
President - 1937

Junior Women's League

The Junior Women's League of Henrietta, Texas, met for an organizational meeting on July 23, 1956, under the direction of Mrs. Rubye Schwend and Mrs. Wayne LeFevre.

The young matron's club was officially organized on August 13, 1956, with its object being to promote self-improvement, social enjoyment, and to aid in community projects. Charter members included Mesdames Gene Allen, Floyd Antwine, William Barrick, Jack Boyd, Billy Garrison, Hal Healer, Joel Holhert, Kenneth Johnston, John D. Kilcrease, Parnell Skelton, Jerome Spivey, and Don Stuart.

Throughout the twenty-five years of its existence, the members of the Junior Women's League have sought to achieve their objective of self-improvement through study programs presented by the members at each monthly meeting. The organization has endeavored to help many areas of our community with their main project being the Henrietta City Park. The group has provided much of the playground equipment at the park by raising money through activities such as bake sales, raffles, sports tournaments, and donations from other groups and individuals. They have assisted with Story Hour at Edward's Public Library, provided workers for the Red Cross Blood Mobile, raised money to help purchase the Jaws of Life, and donated money to the Ladies Hospital Auxillary.

1981-82 Officers and Members

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Vice Pres. - Mrs. Perry Lee

Secretary - Mrs. Sid Wright

Treasurer - Mrs. Benny Burleson

Historian - Mrs. Jim Humphrey

Reporter - Mrs. Paul Gill

Mrs. Theo Allen, Mrs. Kent Cody, Mrs. Ted Coker, Mrs. Mike Erskine, Mrs. Harvey Gemar, Mrs. Andy Harding, Mrs. Chuck Hilliard, Mrs. Ken Marshall, Mrs. Johnny Opella, Mrs. James Perkins, Mrs. David Smith, Mrs. Billy Wynn, and Mrs. Dan Slagle, Associate Member.

St. Elmo Hotel



The St. Elmo Hotel was built in 1892 by Norman (Pete) Snearly, one of the organizers of Clay County. The upper two stories of this Texas historical marker were torn down in 1966. In its prosperous days, the St. Elmo sported Brussels carpeting, Victorian walnut furniture, marble-top tables and Bohemian ruby red lighting fixtures, according to Mrs. J.D. Avis, granddaughter of Mr. Snearly.

Entertainment often was provided by touring musicals or dramatic companies. Reserved seats were 75 cents. President Grover Cleveland was a guest of the hotel while crusading for the rights of the Indians. He was on his way to the Ft. Sill Indian Reservation. The lobby once was site of a pow-wow between Gov. Stephen Hogg and Chief Quanah Parker.

The St. Elmo was headquarters for men moving West. It was the real communications center for Clay County in the early days. The hotel caught the best of the tourist trade when Henrietta was the western most point on the M-K-T Railroad.

The St. Elmo was named after a little mining camp town in Colorado. It was the gathering spot for cattlemen. It also served as the civic meeting center for such groups as missionary societies, a "42" domino club and parent-teacher associations.

The above picture is the St. Elmo Hotel as it appeared in its heyday a few years after it was built in 1892.



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Crowned in 1938

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Brian, Melissa,
Daron, Brice
Becky & Amy Walla
John Louis & Sara Koethe
John Louis II &
Susan Koethe
John Robert
Sarabeth Koethe
Sine K. McMurry
Jim Christian

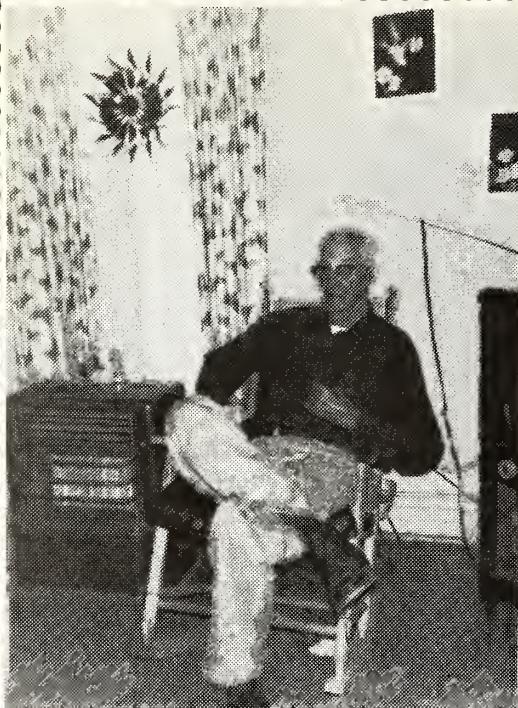
In Loving Memory of
Theodore Bullinger
(1896-1976)

Theodore Bullinger was born May 20, 1896, in Clay County, to Theodore and Eva Schutzman Bullinger.

A farmer and rancher most of his life, he married Miss Anastasia Lerner on May 4, 1920, in Rastad, Saskatchewan, Canada, whose family, Michael Lerner, had been early Clay Countians before moving to Canada.

To this union three children were born: Mrs. Margaret Thompson, Henrietta, Theodore F. Bullinger, Tulsa, Oklahoma, and Joseph Paul Bullinger, Woodbury, New Jersey. There are 13 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren.





In Loving Memory

of

W.H. (Hubert) Garner

John, Flavia
Judy & Carl



In Loving Memory

of

August Paul Vieth

John, Flavia
Judy & Carl

In Memory of

Pioneer Clay Countians

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HISTORY

A Brief Historical Sketch of the Frontier Era in Clay County, Texas

Prior to the creation and organization of Clay County, numerous expeditions crossed its present boundaries. During the time of Spanish ownership of the areas, three major ventures are certain to have crossed the county. These were led by Don Ortiz Parilla in 1759, Pedro Vial in 1786-1787, and Joe Mares in 1787.

While the area was a part of the Republic of Texas, three major expeditions crossed the area. These included an expedition led by Dr. James Connelly to lay out the Chihuahua Trail in 1839, the Texan Santa-Fe Expedition in 1841, and the Jacob Snivel Expedition in 1843.

After Texas was annexed by the United States and before the Civil War, a considerable number of expeditions crossed the county. These included expeditions headed by Nathaniel H. Michler in 1849, Randolph B. Marcey in 1849 and several later dates, Enoch Steen and Albert Sidney Johnson in 1855, Jacob De Cordova in 1856, James B. Leach in 1857, Earl Van Dorn in 1858, and Robert S. Neighbors in 1859.

Clay County was created December 24, 1857 from a portion of Cooke County. It was named in honor of Henry Clay, distinguished American Statesman, Secretary of State, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and United States Senator who was the author of the compromise of 1850 which created the present boundaries of the State of Texas.

By the time of the formal organization of the county in 1860, only a few brave settlers had ventured into the area. The earliest settlers included such men as J. B. Earhart, Charlie Wantling, and Jim Dumas. They established ranches in various sections of the county. These pioneer ranchers were followed closely by the farmers. One of the earliest of these was Ben Hubert, who established a small farm in the area around the mouth of the Little Wichita River.

The first county election was held at the crude frontier settlement of Henrietta, the first county seat. At that time the total population of the county stood at only one hundred nine, of which two were Negro slaves.

The secession of Texas and the beginning of the Civil War was a severe blow to the settlement of Clay County. The tragic conflict caused most of the troops in the area to be withdrawn, leaving Clay County settlers almost completely at the mercy of marauding Indians. Before the Civil War had ended, every white settler in the county had been forced to return to the more thickly settled counties to the east.

Soon after the end of the Civil War, troops began to return to Clay County. Fort Buffalo Springs, Camp Wichita and Fort Burham were established within the county, but were in service for only a short time. What little protection the returning settlers received came mostly from troops garrisoned at forts in surrounding counties. In spite of the constant threat of death at the hands of Indians, the settlers trickled back into the county. Led by H. A. Whaley in 1869, the settlers were numerous enough for the legislature to order the county reorganized in 1873.

County organization was followed by a lengthy and very spirited struggle over the location of the county seat. Although the county seat was rightly Henrietta, residents of Cambridge sought for several years to maintain the seat of government at their town. In the end justice prevailed, and Henrietta has remained the county seat.

In 1883, the increased use of barbed wire and the competition for land and water between farmers and ranchers led to a tragic page in the history of Clay County. The Fence Cutting War plunged some areas of the county into a state of near anarchy. The issue became very confused and neither the big ranchers or the small farmers appeared to have been blameless. After several men were shot to death and numerous others wounded, the conflict was ended by an emergency act of the legislature which recognized the rights of both groups.

With the end of this conflict, the frontier era came to a close in Clay County. The stage was then set for development of Clay County into one of the finest farming and ranching areas in the state.

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Vincent Stine



Mrs. Vincent Stine

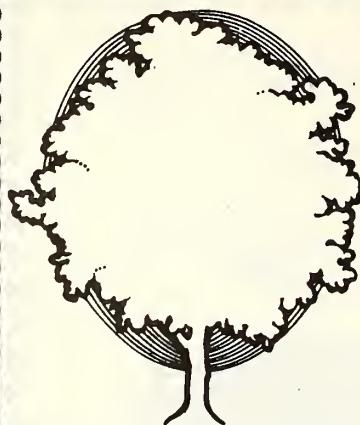
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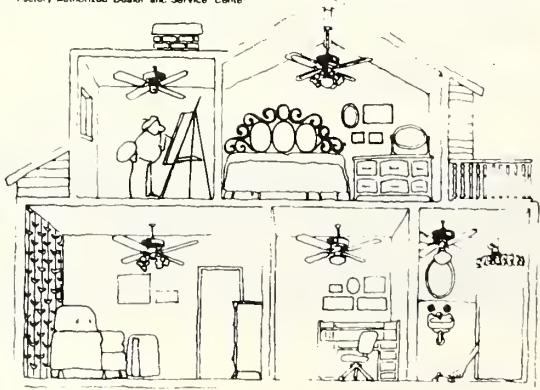
In Memory

of

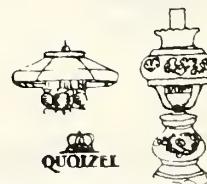
*Ima and M.E.
Harrison*

Andy, Jane, Anne, John and Jill

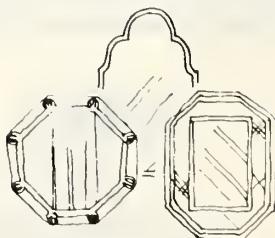
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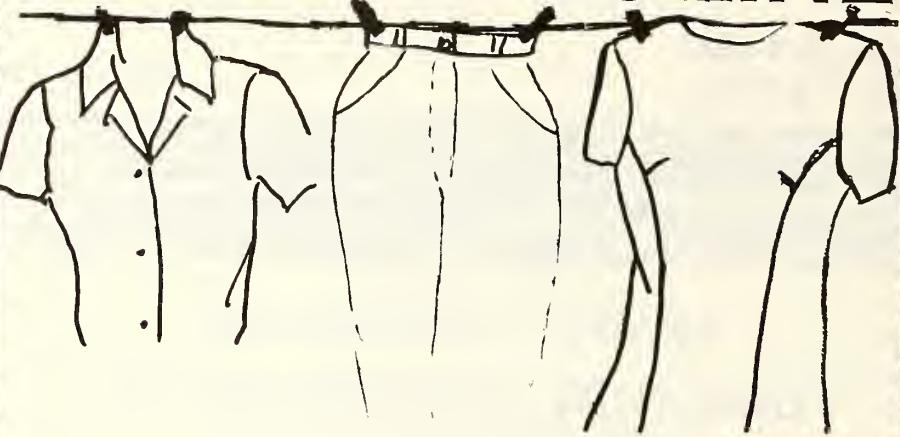
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Betty Lyon Brown

The Family of Betty Brown

Past Pioneer and Rodeo Queens

Pioneer Queen Information compiled from all available sources.

1932—One day Reunion with informal program
1933—Two day Reunion - Rodeo and Street Dance
1934—Mamye McCluer Koethe - Henrietta - 1st Reunion Queen
1935—Mary Jane Alcorn Humphrey - Henrietta
1936—Marjorie Bevering Scaling - Henrietta
1937—Billie Mae Culwell Avis - Henrietta
1938—Mrs. Ida Cunningham - Henrietta
1939—Mabelle Fields Green - Bluegrove
1940—Not able to find record of queen
1941—Gloria Grundy Spikworth - Byers
1942—War - One day affair
1943—War - One day affair - Held on Courthouse lawn
1944—War - One day affair - Held on Courthouse lawn
1945—Musical Program
1946—Mary Margaret Grogan - Henrietta
1947—Maxine Wynn Gray - Bellevue
1948—Joanne Douthitt Hill - Henrietta
1949—Not able to find record of queen
1950—Betty Sue Landrum - Petrolia
1951—Martha Jane Hansard - Katie Christian Douthitt
1952—Randy Hapgood - Melba (Walker) Vincent
1953—Josie Loving Fleming - Louise McNeely Mayo
1954—Laura Holcolm Stine - Mary Ruth Zachry Barrett
1955—Essie Finley Hodge - Lana Gay Moore Mayberry
1956—Hattie Hawkins Watson - Fae (Roderick) Obermier
1957—Cora Wesner Moore - Kay (Hawkins) Nolen
1958—Almeta Houston Spivey - Karon (Terry) Culver - Ellen (Boddy) Middleton
1959—Lula South Cozart - Amelia (Frey) - Mahler
1960—Loy Slaughter Harding - Glenda Covington
1961—Dora Lea Fray Zachry - Linda Uselton
1962—Anna Hankens Landrum - Nancy Tucker
1963—Maud Hurn - Sandra (Mayfield) Edwards
1964—Ena Ikard - Mary Catherine (Crain) Brown
1965—Mrs. Sam P. Peterson - Lana (Benton) Heath
1966—Mrs. Claude Harding - Donna (Davis) Moody
1967—Mrs. R.L. (Delpha) Denson - Connie (Crain) Belcher
1968—Mrs. Philo H. (Willie) Boddy - Carla Sue (Mayfield) Moss
1969—Mrs. Dale (Sallie) Burrus - Carla (Tanner) McLean
1970—Mrs. O.L. (Bertie) Tyson - Cathy Broday
1971—Mrs. Pearlene Lyles - Sandy K. (Smith) Boggeman
1972—Mrs. Viola Kate Balch - Sue (Crain) Maddox
1973—8 Centennial Belles in 1973:
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1974—Mrs. Rosa Lee Laughon - Debbie Ware
1975—Mrs. Ed (Snookie) Bevering - Terry (David) Shelton
1976—Colonial Belles - Evelyn (McCalip) Hill
Mrs. Ben (Lora) Whitaker, Jolly
Mrs. B.F. (Nadine) Crockett, Bellevue
Mrs. Elmer (Bea Eaton), Henrietta
Mrs. E.A. (Pauline) Hoff, Windthorst
Mrs. Bertice Stuart, Henrietta
Mrs. O.D. (Jo) Mathews, Dean
Mrs. Croxton (Alfhild) Maddox, Stanfield
Mrs. A.H. (Esther) Brock, Buffalo Springs
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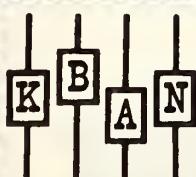
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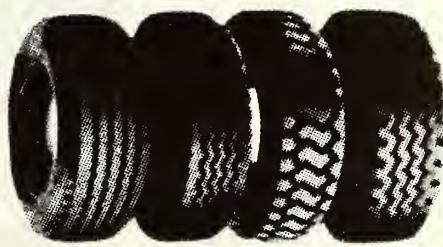
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The Origin of Some Clay County, Texas Town Names

BELLEVUE: It was named by a surveyor from New York, in honor of Bellevue Hospital.

BLUEGROVE: The earliest settlers located in a grove of trees which at a distance appeared as a blue haze.

BUFFALO SPRINGS: The spring nearby gave the town its name.

BYERS: It was named in honor of Byers Brothers, early ranchers and land promoters. They located in the townsite about three miles west of the old settlement of Bevanue. While Byers grew in population, Bevanue declined.

CAMBRIDGE: The town was probably named in honor of Cambridge, Massachusetts by a settler from the east.

CHARLIE: It was named in honor of Charley Taylor, an early settler who operated a store and a way station on the stage line from Henrietta to Fort Sill, Indian Territory.

COBB: It was named in honor of Babe Cobb, pioneer rancher and educator.

DEAN: It bears the name of Calloway Dean, an early farmer and rancher. It is often called Deandale, to include the name of the pioneer rancher and banker Jim Dale.

DEER CREEK: The community was named for an intermittent stream near the townsite.

DICK WORSHAM: It was railhead on the Fort Worth and Denver Railroad. It was located near the headquarters of W.D. Worsham's extensive land holdings.

DOSS: It was named after the Doss Brothers, early Clay County ranchers.

HALSELL: The now inundated community was named in honor of J.F. Halsell, one of the earliest ranchers in the county.

HENRIETTA: Originally named in 1857 at the same time Clay County was created by the Texas Legislature, the County was named for Henry Clay, the distinguished Statesman, United States Senator from Kentucky and Secretary of State, who was responsible for the present boundaries of the State of Texas as a result of the compromise of 1850 and just prior to the creation of Clay County, Texas. Henry Clay was the most distinguished Statesman in America and towered above the contemporary Presidents — The town was named Henrietta by giving it the feminine equivalent of the name Henry. The Henrietta post office was established July 7, 1874.

HURNVILLE: The community carries the name of William Hurn, who emigrated to Clay County from Pennsylvania at an early date.

IKARD: The community was named in honor of W.S. Ikard, noted Clay County rancher and pioneer.

JOLLY: It was named in honor of William H. Jolly, pioneer farmer and rancher.

JOY: The community was first called Fannintown because most of the early settlers hailed from Fannin County, Texas. Postal authorities changed the name to Joy.

MIDWAY: It is the campus of an independent school district. The name refers to its location approximately equal distance to Bluegrove and Joy.

NEWPORT: It was named by combining the first letter of the last names of seven early settlers. They were: Newton, Ezell, Welch, Portwood, Owsley, Reigis and Telleson. The town was first called Bear Hill because a bear was killed at the townsite by early settlers.

THE ORIGIN OF SOME CLAY COUNTY, TEXAS TOWN NAMES

PETROLIA: The town of Oil City was located several miles from the present Petrolia. When the Wichita Falls and Oklahoma Railroad Company lines missed Oil City, the residents moved several miles and started Petrolia. The name was derived by changing a letter in the name of the then booming oil town of Petrolea, Pennsylvania.

PROSPECT: It was named by William Richards who felt that the prospects for success were good for settlers in that area.

RAYMOND: The community was named by a telegrapher employed by Fort Worth and Denver Railroad.

RIVERLAND: Because of the proximity of the Community of Red River and the abundance of fertile land, early settlers called the place Riverland.

SHANNON: The community was first called Stampede Springs. An early settler changed the name because the area reminded him of the Valley of Shannon in Ireland.

STANFIELD: It was named after Stanfield Brothers, early ranchers in the area.

THORNBERRY: Illinois Colony was the earliest name, as the first settlers had emigrated from Illinois. The name was later changed to honor Amos L. Thornberry, an early farmer and rancher.

VASHTI: Dave Turner, early rancher and merchant, named the town after his niece.

WINDTHORST: Although the townsite of the community is located in Archer County, there is a Windthorst voting precinct located in Clay County. The town was named after a town of the same name in Germany.

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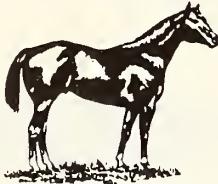
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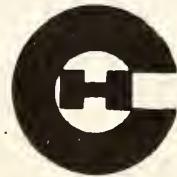
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Sept. 1958 —

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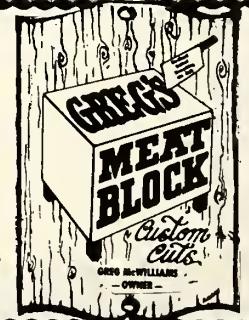
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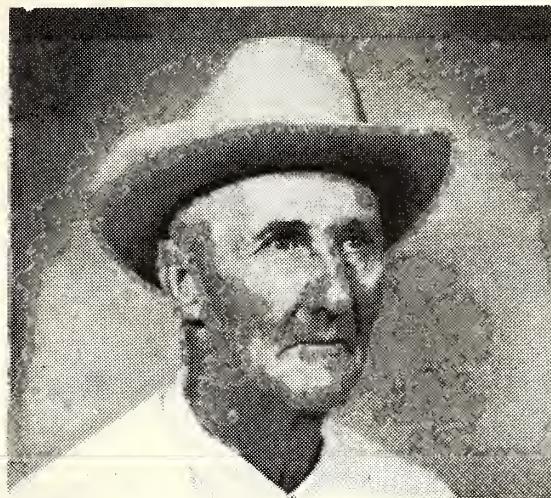
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The committee members have worked long hours knocking on doors, meeting with families on histories and finally putting the finishing touch. But with these hours come the memories of the past and the meeting of so many new faces, which we will always cherish.

A special "Thank You" to our husbands and children for understanding, not having a good hot dinner, and giving us the extra help when we needed it.

We hope each and every one will enjoy this 50th celebration and friendships will be renewed and new ones made.

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